NATIONAL COUNCIL DIGEST

1930

Niel E. Hansen

Anne - 1934

THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL
DIGEST

A compilation of all the important
acts of The National Council of
Congregational Churches in the
United States, with page references
to statements and reports, from the
date of its organization at Oberlin,
Ohio, on November 17, 1871, and
incorporating a revision of the issue
of 1905 by Asher Anderson, D. D.

by

CHARLES EMERSON BURTON, D. D.

Secretary National Council

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of the National Council

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PREFACTORY

The Digest of the National Council of Congregational Churches was published in 1905, Rev. Asher Anderson, Secretary of the National Council, being the editor. This covered the first twelve meetings of the National Council proper. There have been since its publication eleven meetings which have taken on more and more significance. Therefore there is a real demand for another edition of the Digest. The former publication is incorporated in this book, but with many revisions made obvious by change of usage in nomenclature, by shifting of interest in the developing life of the churches and in the interest of brevity as the years increase the volume of action.

It is a guide for further study of the complete minutes of the National Council, and constitutes a bird's-eye view of the development of Congregationalism in America since the organization of the Council.

The method followed is largely chronological. Under each head the earliest action is ordinarily given first. This process extends to chronological arrangement under subdivisions: for example, under ''Benevolent Societies,'' the subdivision ''Consolidation of Benevolent Societies'' has its own subject matter arranged chronologically. Most of the ordinary reports and such addresses as are listed are referred to simply by year and page of the minutes. Where a given action involves more than one major topic the endeavor is to avoid duplication in printing by cross reference. Only important matters are included in the Digest. Routine business, election of officers, reports which require no action, and the statements of the Benevolent Societies are not included. But regularly in the minutes there appear lists of officers, names of the members of the Council, reports of officers, committees, commissions, and societies, programs of the meetings and certain of the papers and addresses delivered before the Council. (See list pp. 7-13)

In the index will be found a large number of titles incorporated in the text under other headings; for example, under the section on Interchurch Relations is treated such subjects as fellowship, comity, federation, unity, etc. All of these will be found in the index.

The complete minutes are available in the office of the National Council, and to a limited extent extra copies are available for sale. Files of the minutes may also be found in the Congregational Library in Boston and in many of the libraries of Congregational institutions. Not a few of the State Conference offices are equipped with files. The National Council has but limited facilities for research, but stands ready to answer such calls as it is able to respond to and will gladly afford opportunity to others to examine the volumes of the minutes.

CHARLES EMERSON BURTON.

New York, N. Y., 1930.

MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL, 1865-1929

YEAR	PLACE	MODERATOR	FIRST ASSISTANT	SECOND ASSISTANT	PREACHER
1865	Boston, Mass.	Hon. W. A. Buckingham	Charles G. Hammond	Rev. J. P. Thompson	Julian M. Sturtevant
1871	Oberlin, Ohio	Rev. W. I. Budington	Gen. O. O. Howard	Rev. Geo. H. Atkinson	Leonard Bacon
1874	New Haven, Conn.	Hon. L. S. Foster	Rev. G. F. Magoun	Rev. I. E. Dwinell	Richard S. Storrs
1877	Detroit, Mich.	Hon. W. B. Washburn	Rev. A. L. Chapin	Hon. C. G. Hammond	Zachary Eddy
1880	St. Louis, Mo.	Rev. Henry M. Dexter	Rev. J. Sturtevant, Jr.	Rev. John D. Smith	Samuel E. Herrick
1883	Concord, N. H.	Rev. Arthur Little	Frederick Billings	Rev. Cushing Eells	Fred'k A. Noble
1886	Chicago, Ill.	Hon. Lorrin A. Cooke	Rev. John K. McLean	Rev. Benj. A. Imes	Prof. Geo. P. Fisher
1889	Worcester, Mass.	Pres. Cyrus Northrop	Ira H. Evans	Rev. Franklin S. Fitch	Israel E. Dwinell
1892	Minneapolis, Minn.	Rev. A. H. Quint	Hon. B. M. Cutcheon	Rev. George C. Rowe	Chas. M. Lamson
1895	Syracuse, N. Y.	Hon. Nelson Dingley	Rev. Chas. O. Brown	Rev. G. W. Henderson	F. W. Gunsaulus
1898	Portland, Ore.	Rev. Fred'k A. Noble	Rev. Geo. C. Adams	O. Vincent Coffin	Albert J. Lyman
1901	Portland, Me.	Rev. A. H. Bradford	William H. Strong	Rev. S. B. L. Penrose	William J. Tucker
1904	Des Moines, Ia.	Rev. Wash'n Gladden	Hon. J. H. Perry	Rev. H. H. Proctor	Alexander McKenzie
1907	Cleveland, Ohio	Hon. T. C. MacMillan	Pres. J. G. Merrill	Rev. F. L. Goodspeed	Geo. A. Gordon
1910	Boston, Mass.	Rev. N. Boynton	Rev. Arthur H. Smith	Pres. Chas. S. Nash	Pres. W. D. McKenzie
1913	Kansas City, Mo.	Rev. Charles R. Brown	Hon. H. M. Beardsley	Rev. A. C. Garner	C. E. Jefferson
1915	New Haven, Conn.	Hon. H. M. Beardsley	Rev. Wm. H. Day	Rev. Alfred Lawless	Ozora S. Davis
1917	Columbus, Ohio	Rev. Wm. Horace Day	Rev. Wm. E. Barton	Rev. H. M. Kingsley	Chas. S. Mills
1919	Grand Rapids, Mich.	Pres. Henry C. King	Rev. R. A. Hume	Rev. W. N. DeBerry	Raymond Calkins
1921	Los Angeles, Calif.	Rev. Wm. E. Barton	Rev. R. H. Potter	Rev. E. G. Harris	G. Glenn Atkins
1923	Springfield, Mass.	Rev. R. H. Potter	Rev. Hilton Pedley	Rev. C. W. Burton	S. Parkes Cadman
1925	Washington, D. C.	Mr. Frank J. Harwood	Mrs. E. A. Osbornson	Rev. Wm. L. Cash	Carl S. Patton
1927	Omaha, Neb.	Rev. Ozora S. Davis	*Rev. R. H. Potter	*Rev. Wm. H. Day	Albert W. Palmer
1929	Detroit, Mich.	Mr. Fred B. Smith	*Rev. R. H. Potter	Rev. Wm. H. Day	Henry K. Booth

Secretaries: Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, 1871-83; Rev. Henry H. Hazen, 1883-1900; Rev. Asher Anderson, 1900-13; Rev. Hubert C. Herring, 1913-1920; Rev. Edward D. Eaton, ad interim, 1920-1921; Rev. Charles E. Burton, 1921—.

Treasurers: Charles G. Hammond, 1871-74; Charles Demond, 1874-78; Rev. Henry M. Dexter, 1878-80; Rev. Lavelette Perrin, 1880-89; Rev. Samuel B. Forbes, 1889-1907; Rev. Joel S. Ives, 1907-15; Rev. John J. Walker, 1915-1919; Frank F. Moore, 1919-23; Franklin H. Warner, 1923-1927; Edwin G. Warner, 1927-30; William T. Boult, 1930—.

Associate Moderators: Rev. Dan F. Bradley, 1925-27; Hon. William E. Sweet, 1927-29; Franklin Warner, 1929-31.

Additional Assistant Moderators: Rev. J. H. Heald, Dr. Geo. E. Haynes, Mr. Hermann F. Ruoff, Mrs. W. A. Rowell, 1927-29. Rev. H. S. Barnwell; Mrs. Albert J. Lyman, 1929-31.

*Ex officiis and without differentiation between "First" and "Second".

PAPERS AND ADDRESSES PRINTED IN MINUTES

1635 Newtowne, Mass. Synod

Against the speculations of John Wheelwright, Mistress Anne Hutchinson, and others—examination and condemnation of eighty-two erroneous opinions and nine unwholesome expressions.

1646-1648 Cambridge, Mass. Synod

Discussion of and consent to the Confession of Faith of Westminster Assembly and Cambridge Platform of Discipline.

1852 Albany, N. Y. Convention

1. Aiding the feeble churches in the West.
2. The "Plan of Union."
3. The system and operation of the American Home Missionary Society.
4. Relations of New England Congregationalists and those of other states.
5. The work and responsibility of the local church.
6. Candidates for the ministry.
7. The republication of the works of our standard theological writers.

1865 Boston, Mass. Council

1. Evangelization in the West, South, and foreign lands.
2. Church building.
3. Education for the ministry, and ministerial support.
4. Local and parochial evangelization.
5. The expediency of issuing a Declaration of Church Polity.
6. The expediency of setting forth a Declaration of Faith.
7. Classification of benevolent societies to be recommended to the churches.

Addresses Delivered Before the Boston Council, 1865

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Papers and Addresses Given at the National Council

1871 Oberlin, O.

1. The unity of the church. *Rev. William I. Budington.*
2. The supply of the ministry. *Rev. Christopher Cushing.*
3. Congregational literature. *Rev. W. W. Patton.*
4. Church building. *Rev. Ray Palmer.*
5. Foreign Missions. *Rev. Nathaniel G. Clark.*
6. Home missions. *Rev. Joseph E. Roy.*
7. Church extension. *Rev. W. E. Merriman.*
8. American Missionary Association. *Rev. Michael F. Strieby.*

1874 New Haven, Conn.

1. Signs of a general and speedy effusion of the Holy Spirit. *Rev. Zachary Eddy.*
2. Our foreign missionary churches. *Rev. N. G. Clark.*
3. How to make the pulpit effective with the masses. *Rev. W. H. H. Murray.*
4. The character essential to the religion which will take strong hold of the American people. *Rev. James H. Fairchild.*
5. Comity between denominations in the home field. *Rev. David B. Coe.*
6. Undeveloped power in churches and individuals. *Rev. A. F. Beard.*
7. Fellowship of the churches. *Rev. I. E. Dwinell.*

1877 Detroit, Mich.

1. The Bible in public schools. *Rev. Theo. D. Woolsey.*
2. The recent evangelistic movements. *Rev. Samuel E. Herrick.*
3. Pastorless churches. *Rev. H. M. Dexter.*
4. Woman's work as a part of the religious movement of our times. *Rev. Constans L. Goodell.*
5. Fellowship and union meetings. *Rev. Arthur Little.*
6. Sunday School work: sphere and methods. *Rev. H. Clay Trumbull.*

1880 St. Louis, Mo.

1. Is it desirable that a statement be prepared of the doctrinal belief of our churches in the form of a Declaration of Faith? *Rev. Hiram Mead.*
2. Christian schools in the New West. *Rev. Frederick A. Noble.*

1883 Concord, N. H.

1. Christian giving or the consecrated use of money. *Hon. J. M. W. Hall.*
2. The relation of the children to the church. *Rev. George B. Spalding.*

1886 Chicago, Ill.

1. The future of Congregationalism. *Rev. Henry A. Stimson.*
2. Churches on the borderland of self-support. *Rev. A. L. Frisbie.*
3. Relation of Congregational churches to the work of evangelization. *Rev. George F. Pentecost.*
4. Congregationalism and Christian education. *Rev. George H. Ide.*
5. The financial relations of the churches and the Council. *Rev. H. L. Hubbell.*

1889 Worcester, Mass.

1. The need and importance of an increase in the supply of ministers. *Rev. Prof. H. M. Scott.*
2. The needs of our German work. *Rev. M. E. Eversz.*

3. The church and the young. *Rev. Francis E. Clark.*
4. The need of Bible study. *Rev. Albert E. Dunning.*
5. Christian socialism. *Rev. Washington Gladden.*
6. Religion and the public schools. *Rev. Josiah Strong.*

1892 Minneapolis, Minn.

No papers appointed to be read.

1895 Syracuse, N. Y.

1. Address of retiring moderator. *Rev. Alonzo H. Quint.*
2. Present-day preaching. *Rev. James Brand.*
3. The institutional church. *Rev. Charles S. Mills.*
4. The missionary obligations of our churches. *Hon. Samuel B. Capen.*
5. The National Council. *Rev. William H. Moore.*
6. The National Council and civil liberty. *Rev. J. H. Twichell.*
7. The right conception of the church. *Rev. Edward Hawes.*
8. Our seminaries. *Rev. Edward F. Williams.*

1898 Portland, Ore.

1. Congregationalism in the making of the nation. *Rev. F. A. Noble.*
2. International mission of Congregationalism. *Rev. Amory H. Bradford.*
3. Federation of Protestant churches. *Rev. F. T. Bayley.*
4. Disbanded churches, Property of. *Rev. I. W. Metcalf.*
5. Utah, The situation in. *Rev. W. S. Hunt.*
6. Anti-saloon work. *Mr. Frank Foxcroft, Rev. H. H. Russell.*
7. Religious movements on the Pacific coast. *Rev. Prof. George Moar.*
8. The Indians. *Rev. Myron Eells.*
9. Religious movements on the Pacific coast. *Rev. W. C. Kantner.*
10. Church and social problems. *Rev. W. E. Barton.*
11. Common grounds of belief for Christian thinkers. *Rev. E. S. Hill.*
12. Common grounds of belief for Christian thinkers. *Rev. Prof. H. C. King.*
13. Future of ecclesiastical councils. *Rev. H. A. Hazen.*
14. Modern methods in missionary work. *Hon. S. B. Capen.*
15. Ministerial character, Standards of. *Rev. Prof. A. L. Gillett.*

1901 Portland, Me.

Address of retiring moderator: How far our preaching ought to be modified to meet the changed condition of the times. *Rev. F. A. Noble.*

1. How far does the application of doctrine to practical life constitute effective preaching? *Rev. Dan F. Bradley.*
2. The type of character favored by Congregationalism. *Prof. Williston Walker.*
3. The sacraments: function in life and church. *Rev. J. G. Vose.*
4. The necessity of a rational philosophy to effective preaching. *Rev. W. H. Bolster.*
5. Claims of the churches upon our theological seminaries. *Rev. W. A. Bartlett.*
6. Claims of the theological seminaries upon our churches. *Rev. Prof. George F. Moore.*
7. What help may the public schools expect from the churches? *Rev. Albert E. Winship.*
8. What help may the churches expect from the public schools? *W. W. Stetson.*

9. The Congregational church as a factor in the town. *Pres. W. DeW. Hyde.*
10. The Christian citizen and municipal government. *Rev. Samuel G. Smith.*
11. Needful reforms in methods and instruction in Sunday Schools. *Rev. Albert E. Dunning.*
12. Spiritual trend of our young people's organizations. *Rev. C. M. Southgate.*
13. Co-operation of church and home in the nurture of the young. *Rev. Charles H. Richards.*
14. Foreign elements in American civilization. *Rev. Henry A. Schauffler.*
15. City evangelization. *Rev. J. C. Armstrong.*
16. Christianity, a world-wide movement. *Pres. M. H. Buckham.*
17. New perils and possibilities in the foreign field. *Rev. John P. Jones.*
18. Influence of Congregationalism on the reunion of Christendom. *Rev. Prof. W. D. Mackenzie.*
19. Congregational teaching as to the right use of wealth. *Pres. Horace Bumstead.*
20. Woman's work in our churches. *Rev. T. C. McClelland.*
21. The spiritual mission of Congregationalism. *Rev. S. M. Newman.*
22. The living Christ, a vital force in pulpit and pew. *Rev. George H. Ide.*
23. Consecrated personality, the supreme need of the church. *Rev. Charles E. Jefferson.*

1904 Des Moines, Ia.

Address of the retiring moderator: The continuous leadership of the Holy Spirit. *Rev. Amory H. Bradford.*
1. The supreme need of the churches. *Rev. Charles R. Brown, Prof. J. W. Platner.*
2. The essential elements of a true revival. *Rev. Henry A. Stimson, Rev. Henry H. Proctor.*
3. The preparation required for a spiritual awakening. *Pres. Henry C. King, Rev. Oliver Huckel.*
4. The principles of Christianity applied to industrial problems. *Prof. Graham Taylor, Mr. H. M. Beardsley, Mr. E. E. Clark, Mr. Henry White.*
5. Relations of laboring men to the church. *Mr. Edward D. Brigham.*
6. The religious life and the modern intellectual movement. *Rev. DeWitt S. Clark, Pres. George A. Gates.*
7. The spiritual life and religious education. *Rev. Lyman Abbott, Rev. James L. Barton, Pres. E. D. Eaton.*
8. The responsibility of the churches for the character, strength, and efficiency of their ministers. *Rev. Nehemiah Boynton.*
9. The mission of the college in the maintenance of Christian leadership. *Pres. W. F. Slocum.*
10. Evangelization and our Congregational churches. *Prof. E. A. Steiner, Rev. John S. Penman, Rev. J. C. Armstrong, Rev. H. F. Swartz.*
11. Evangelization and the church catholic. *Rev. Albert H. Plumb, Rev. W. L. Beard.*
12. The Christianization of the world. *Pres. William D. Mackenzie, Rev. Hubert C. Herring.*
Closing address of moderator. *Rev. Washington Gladden.*

1907 Cleveland, Ohio

Address of the retiring moderator: The church and the social crisis. *Rev. Washington Gladden.*
1. Sermon: The eternal life. *Rev. George A. Gordon.*
2. The relation of the church to public education: *President G. Stanley Hall.*
3. The theological seminaries: their work. *Prof. Calvin M. Clark.*
4. Congregationalism. *Pres. Cyrus Northrop.*
5. The modern minister: his message. *Prof. Ambrose W. Vernon.*
6. The modern minister: his training. *Prof. George F. Moore.*
7. The church and the industrial problem. *Rev. Eugene G. Updike.*
8. The church as the champion of social justice. *Rev. Daniel Evans.*
9. The church as witness to civic righteousness. *Rev. Rockwell Harmon Potter.*
10. Church neglect; causes and remedy. *Rev. Burton W. Lockhart.*
11. A new day for Congregationalism: in evangelism. *Prof. E. I. Bosworth.* In social service. *Rev. G. Glenn Atkins.* In missions. *Rev. S. Parkes Cadman.*
12. Christian endeavor and evangelism. *Rev. Francis E. Clark.*
13. Organized evangelism. *Rev. W. J. Dawson.*

1910 Boston, Mass.

Address of the retiring moderator: Opportunities in Congregationalism. *Hon. Thomas MacMillan.*
1. Sermon: Christianity the religion of the world. *President William Douglass Mackenzie.*
   (Printed and published by the American Board)
2. The solidarity of Congregational fellowship. *Rev. J. Percival Huget, Rev. Alexander Lewis, Rev. Frederick Lynch.*
3. The scope and significance of the brotherhood movement. *Mr. William H. Lewis.*
4. The church and citizenship; political integrity. *Rev. George S. Rollins.*
5. Social equities. *Rev. George L. Cady.*
6. Industrial obligations. *Hon. H. M. Beardsley.*
7. Immigration in relation to the church. *President Ozora S. Davis.*
8. Partnership of the church and the theological seminary. *President Albert P. Fitch.*
9. Essential factors in the revival of tomorrow. *Rev. Frank G. Smith.*
10. The religious education of our youth. *President Marion Leroy Burton.*
11. The supremacy of Jesus Christ in the modern world. *Rev. William Horace Day.*

1913 Kansas City, Mo.

Address of the retiring moderator. *Rev. Nehemiah Boynton.*
1. Sermon: The world's need and Christianity's offer. *Rev. Charles E. Jefferson.*
2. Church unity. *Rev. Newman Smyth.*
3. The reasonableness of Protestant union. *Rev. Peter Ainslie.*
4. A working basis for church unity. *Rev. Oliver Huckel.*
5. The leader and his task. *Rev. Carl S. Patton.*
6. Ministerial annuities. *Rev. Frank J. Goodwin.*
7. The responsibilities of the church respecting marriages. *Simeon E. Baldwin.*

1915 New Haven, Conn.

Address of the retiring moderator. *Rev. Charles R. Brown.*
1. Sermon: The gospel of Christ in a time of war. *Rev. Ozora S. Davis.*
2. An international conscience. *Rev. Charles F. Aked.*
3. Our conflict and our resources. *Rev. George A. Gordon.*
4. Religion in our colleges. *Pres. Henry Churchill King.*
5. The spirit of Christ in the institutions of our nation. *Raymond Robins.*

1917 Columbus, Ohio

Address by the retiring moderator: Testing the gospel in the twentieth century. *Hon. Henry M. Beardsley.*
Sermon: The strategy of the church in the crisis of the world. *Rev. Charles S. Mills.*
Extracts from addresses by: *Rev. Robert E. Brown, Rev. Frank L. Moore, Rev. Edwin H. Byington, Rev. Dan F. Bradley, Rev. Robert L. Kelly, Rev. Lloyd C. Douglas, Rev. James A. Blaisdell, Rev. Charles E. Merriam, Mrs. Charles F. Chase, Rev. Ernest Bourner Allen, Rev. Frank E. Jenkins, Rev. George L. Cady, Rev. William E. Barton, Dean Charles R. Brown, Rev. Francis J. Van Horn, Rev. G. Glenn Atkins, Rev. H. M. Edmonds, Rev. Hugh Pedley.*

1919 Grand Rapids, Mich.

Address by the retiring moderator: Whither. *Rev. William Horace Day.*
Sermon: The church and the social conscience. *Rev. Raymond Calkins.*

1921 Los Angeles, California

Address by the retiring moderator: A national educational policy for the denomination. *Pres. Henry C. King.*
Sermon: The ultimate God. *Rev. G. Glenn Atkins.*

1923 Springfield, Massachusetts

Address by the retiring moderator: Congregationalism, continental and catholic. *Rev. William E. Barton.*
Sermon: St. Paul's prayer for the Philippian Church. *Rev. S. Parkes Cadman.*

1925 Washington, D. C.

Address by the retiring moderator: Puritan principle of Christian fellowship. *Rev. Rockwell Harmon Potter.*
Sermon: The gospel in the present age. *Rev. Carl S. Patton.*

1927 Omaha, Nebraska

Address by the retiring moderator. *Mr. Frank J. Harwood.*
Sermon: The new Christian epic. *Rev. Albert W. Palmer.*
Address by the secretary: The pilgrim spirit in the awakening world. *Rev. Charles Emerson Burton.*

1929 Detroit, Mich.

Address by the retiring moderator: Life-giving convictions. *Rev. Ozora Stearns Davis.*
Sermon: The abiding convictions of the supreme life. *Rev. Henry K. Booth.*
Address by associate secretary: The church's opportunity in the field of adult education. *Rev. F. L. Fagley.*

SYNODS HELD PREVIOUS TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

THE COMPACT

On Board "Mayflower", Cape Cod, Nov. 11, 1620

Before leaving the *Mayflower,* forty-one persons signed the following compact:—

In y^{e} name of God Amen. We whofe names are underwriten, the loyall fubjects of our dread foveraigne lord King James, by y^{e} grace of God, of great Britaine, Franc, & Ireland king, defender of y^{e} faith, &c.

Haveing undertaken, for y^{e} glorie of God, and advancemente of y^{e} chriftian faith and honour of our king & countrie, a voyage to plant y^{e} firft colonie in y^{e} Northerne parts of Virginia. Doe by thefe prefents folemnly & mutualy in y^{e} prefence of God, and one of another; covenant, & combine our felves togeather into a civill body politick; for our better ordering, & prefervation & furtherance of y^{e} ends aforefaid; and by vertue hearof to enacte, conftitute, and frame fhuch juft & equall lawes, ordinances, Acts, conftitutions, & offices, from time to time, as fhall be thought moft meete & convenient for y^{e} generall good of y^{e} Colonie: unto which we promife all due fubmiffion and obedience. In witnes wherof we have hereunder fubfcribed our names at Cap-Codd y^{e} .II. of November, in y^{e} year of y^{e} raigne of our foveraigne lord king James of England, France, & Ireland y^{e} eighteenth and of Scotland y^{e} fiftie fourth. An° Dom. 1620.

John Carver
William Bradford
Edward Winflow
William Brewfter
Ifaac Allerton
Myles Standifh
John Alden
John Turner
Francis Eaton
James Chilton
John Crackfton
John Billington
Mofes Fletcher
John Goodman
Samuel Fuller
Chriftopher Martin
William Mullins
William White
Richard Warren
John Howland
Stephen Hopkins

Degory Prieft
Thomas Williams
Gilbert Winflow
Edmund Margefon
Peter Brown
Richard Britteridge
George Soule
Edward Tilley
John Tilley
Francis Cooke
Thomas Rogers
Thomas Tinker
John Ridgdale
Edward Fuller
Richard Clark
Richard Gardiner
John Allerton
Thomas Englifh
Edward Doty
Edward Leifter

THE NEWTOWNE SYNOD

Newtowne, Mass., August 30, 1637

DOCTRINES OF ANNE HUTCHINSON AND OTHERS

This synod was called by the General Court of Massachusetts, upon petition, to be "constituted of all the teaching elders through the country, and of messengers from the churches."

The synod lasted through twenty-four days. Eighty-two erroneous opinions and nine unwholesome expressions were condemned. The synod pronounced what Scripture had been perverted, and declared the true meaning; that conferences by church members at or near the meeting-house could not be countenanced; that members who held views contrary to the faith of the church should not receive letters of dismission; that women's meetings for doctrinal discussion were not expedient.

THE CAMBRIDGE SYNOD

THE CAMBRIDGE PLATFORM

Cambridge, Mass., Sept., 1646 — 14 days. June 8, 1647. Adjourned.
Oct. 27, 1647. Adjourned. Aug. 15, 1648, Aug. 25, 1648

Ministers in England sent a Letter of Inquiry to New England, requesting the judgment of their brethren concerning "nine positions." At about the same time the Puritan churches in England sent a communication to the churches in New England, in which thirty-two questions were asked, covering the whole field of church government. The General Court of Massachusetts was petitioned in May, 1646, to convene the churches in a synod.

The text of the call is as follows:—

"That there be a public assembly of the Elders and other messengers of the several churches, within this jurisdiction, who may come together, and meet at Cambridge, upon the first day of September, now next ensuing, then to discuss, dispute, and clear up by the Word of God, such questions of church government and discipline, in the things aforementioned or any other, as they shall think needful and meet, and to continue so doing till they or the major part of them shall have agreed and consented upon one form of government and discipline, for the main and substantial parts thereof, as that which they judge agreeable to the Holy Scriptures."

The work of this synod dealt with subjects as follows:—

Chapters 1-4.	Church government.
Chapter 5.	Brethren elect Elders: Elders have power.
Chapter 6.	The two orders: Elders and Deacons.
Chapter 7.	Duties of Elders and Deacons.

Chapter 8.	How officers are chosen.
Chapter 9.	Manner and meaning of ordination.
Chapter 10.	Relation and powers of Elders and brethren.
Chapter 11.	Financial support of church officers.
Chapters 12-14.	Reception, dismission, and discipline of members.
Chapter 15.	Fellowship of the churches.
Chapter 16.	Nature of synods: how to call synods.
Chapter 17.	Relation of church officers to civil government.

This platform obtained with the churches as the standard until 1780.

MASSACHUSETTS SYNOD

Boston, Mass., March 10, 1662; June 10, 1662; July 4, 1662; September 9, 1662

At the "order and desire" of the General Court of Massachusetts, seventy Elders and messengers convened to consider two questions, viz.: 1. "Who are the subjects of baptism?" 2. "Whether, according to the Word of God, there ought to be a consociation of churches, and what should be the manner of it."

Respecting the first, the synod recommended that persons baptized in infancy, and therefore members of the church, might "own the covenant," if not scandalous in their lives, without coming into full communion, and might thus be entitled to have their children baptized.

This judgment failed of general approval.

Respecting the second, the synod recommended in answer the "Cambridge Platform."

The result of this synod was submitted to the court, ordered to be printed, and commended "unto all the churches and people of this jurisdiction."

THE REFORMED SYNOD

Boston, Mass., September 10, 1679

Upon a motion made by "certain reverend Elders," the General Court convened a synod for the purpose of considering two questions: 1. "What are the evils that have provoked the Lord to bring his judgments on New England?" 2. "What is to be done so that these evils may be reformed?"

The questions were seriously debated. The "Cambridge Platform" was approved. The result was drawn up by Increase Mather, and the court, ordering it to be printed, recommended it "to the serious consideration of all the churches and people in this jurisdiction."

May 12, 1680

A second session was held to "consult and consider a Confession of Faith." With slight variations the confession consented to by the churches in England, at the Savoy, 1658, was adopted. The General Court ordered it printed.

SAYBROOK SYNOD

THE SAYBROOK PLATFORM

Saybrook, Conn., September 9, 1708

The Legislature of Connecticut directed "that the ministers of the several counties should meet at the county towns, with such messengers as the churches should send, consider and agree upon methods and rules of ecclesiastical discipline, and appoint two or more of their number to meet at Saybrook, there to draw a form of ecclesiastical discipline to be laid before the Legislature at its October session."

The synod accepted the Massachusetts' Confession; the heads of agreement were adopted. It adopted the "Fifteen Articles of Discipline," and established the Consociation System.

THE ALBANY CONVENTION

"PLAN OF UNION"

Albany, N. Y., October 5-8, 1852

From 1780 the churches exercised an independency which tended to decentralize fellowship. To protect their churches against the incoming of ecclesiastical organizations, a close fellowship was cultivated with the Presbyterians. The sequel was a split in the Presbyterian churches into "old" and "new" schools. The Congregationalists lost many churches. In 1837, at a special convention of the Presbyterians in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, it was voted "that the act of 1801 be abrogated."

The convention at Albany voted that the Plan of Union be discontinued; and $62,000 were pledged for the propagation of Congregationalism.

THE BOSTON COUNCIL

PRELIMINARY

Vol. 1865

The feeling that the Congregational churches of the United States should consult together upon their duties and opportunities was the occasion for "The Convention of the Congregational Churches of the Northwest," at its Triennial Meeting in Chicago, Illinois, April, 1864, adopting resolutions to the above effect. P. 1.

The proposal was considered by the General Association of Illinois at Quincy, May 27, 1864, and that body voted that a National Convention of Congregationalists be invited to assemble at Springfield, Massachusetts, or Albany, New York, on Tuesday, September 6, 1864. P. 2.

The Congregational Conference of Ohio, Springfield, Ohio, June 10, 1864, approved the proposal, and invited the convention to meet at Cleveland. P. 2.

Such delegates as met at New Haven, Connecticut, in July, 1864, suggested that the American Congregational Union invite the committees from the several states to which the proposal had been sent to meet in Broadway Tabernacle Church, Wednesday, November 16, 1864. P. 3.

Accordingly the committees met. Fifteen states were represented. Forty delegates and fourteen honorary members were present.

According to vote the sessions were private.

CONFERENCE OF COMMITTEES — PRELIMINARY

New York, N. Y., Nov. 16, 1864

It was *resolved,* That this body is understood to be composed of the committees regularly appointed by the General Associations and conferences of the several states and territories, with such other persons as by a liberal construction may be regarded as representing the churches in the states or territories from which they come. Vol. 1865, p. 6.

It was *resolved,* That the secretaries of the American Home Missionary Society, of the American Missionary Association, of the Education Society, and of the Society for the Promotion of Collegiate and Theological Education at the West be invited to sit and deliberate with this conference. Vol. 1865, p. 6.

It was *resolved,* That this convention be based upon a representation of Congregational churches, having a recognized fellowship in doctrine and order; and that a committee be appointed to prepare and report the terms of such representation. Vol. 1865, p. 7.

REPRESENTATION — PRELIMINARY

New York, N. Y., Nov. 16, 1864. Boston Council, Vol. 1865, p. 8

The Committee on Terms of Representation reported (stating in the Preamble the two fundamental principles of Congregationalism, viz., autonomy and fellowship) :—

1. The Council without power: meeting to consider exigencies and opportunities.

2. That the selection of members be by churches in local conferences; one pastor and one delegate, or two delegates for each ten churches, and for any remaining fraction greater than one-half; each conference or association be allowed at least one pastor and one delegate.

3. The committee constituting this conference secure representation from localities where no bodies exist on the above basis.

4. That the committee from each state issue the call.

5. That the Council meet in Boston, Massachusetts, second Wednesday in June, 1865.

PRINTING PROCEEDINGS — PRELIMINARY

New York, N. Y., Nov. 16, 1864. Boston Council, Vol. 1865, p. 11

Resolved, That the proceedings of this conference be published in such newspapers as may desire to publish them, and in the *Congregational Quarterly,* and that the publishers of the *Quarterly* be requested to print one thousand copies extra for the use of the Council; also, that all the restrictions heretofore imposed upon the publication of the proceedings of this conference be removed.

Note.—Letters of Invitation were sent to the churches. The document was signed by committees of fourteen states, and two others representing their states as well. Place and time designated, Old South Meeting House, June 14, 1865, at 3 o'clock P. M. The response from Boston was exceeding cordial. The acts of this Council are to be found in the National Council Digest.

NATIONAL COUNCIL DIGEST

Including the Acts of the Council of 1865

Absentee Members

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Council be authorized to devise some method of correspondence whereby absentee members of Congregational churches may be brought speedily into relationship with the churches into whose vicinity they may have moved. 1907, p. 427.

The Advance

The Executive Committee presented the following recommendations regarding the purchase of *The Advance:*

> The Executive Committee recommends that the National Council endorse the policy of maintaining one national weekly religious paper as the organ of the denomination.
>
> The Committee reports that the value of *The Advance* to *The Congregationalist* has been fixed by a board of appraisal as $30,000. The Publishing Society, in full accord with the desirability of the union of the two papers, does not feel, in view of the exceedingly difficult situation facing the publishing world, that it ought to assume the full responsibility of the purchase of *The Advance.*
>
> In recognition of this readily appreciable attitude and having in mind the large benefit that should accrue to our denominational life, the Committee recommends that the Council direct the Publishing Society to purchase *The Advance* in accordance with the terms named by the Board of Appraisal and that it authorize the Executive Committee to co-operate with the Publishing Society in completing the transaction, providing the conditions of sale are satisfactory to the Executive Committee.
>
> The Committee recommends that the Council, because of these instructions to the Publishing Society, considers itself morally bound to do everything in its power to make the merger successful and to share with the Publishing Society any added financial responsibilities that might eventually rest upon the Publishing Society because of the merger.

The Committee recommends that upon the consummation of the merger, churches, pastors and associations of churches throughout the country be requested to make a determined effort to place the combined papers in every Congregational home as one of the most vital educative forces that can be brought to bear upon the life of the family and as a major factor in our common denominational activities. The recommendations were adopted 1917, p. 44.

Africa

Whereas, The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, having long conducted "religious and charitable institutions and undertakings in Africa," which "aim at leading the natives in the paths of progress and civilization," considers it exceedingly important that the United States Senate should speedily ratify the Convention Revising the General Act of Berlin and the General Act of Brussels, signed at Saint Germain, September 10, 1919, to which the United States became a signatory in 1919, and thus enter into treaty relationships with European States for the protection of missionary interests in African territories under their control; therefore be it

Resolved, That the National Council of Congregational Churches heartily approves the above action of the Prudential Committee of the American Board, and orders a copy of this resolution to be respectfully transmitted by our General Secretary to the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate, to the President of the United States, and to the State Department in Washington. 1929, p. 223.

American Bible Society

References to: 1865, pp. 41, 228, 341. Address 1901, p. 26.

Resolved, That the National Council of Congregational Churches, rejoicing in what its constituent churches have heretofore done through the American Bible Society for this great and common interest of Christendom, records its confident expectation that these churches will continue to value and sustain the Bible Society as holding the foremost place among the institutions through which they co-operate with Christians of every name to fill the world with the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in Christ. 1874. p. 25.

Resolved, That this National Council, profoundly thankful for all that God has wrought through this agency in the years that are past, expresses its hearty approval of this important work, and commends it anew to the churches here represented. 1886. p. 38. Memorial, p. 362.

1. That all our churches be requested to take contributions for the work of the American Bible Society.

2. We recommend to the Bible Society great care in the selection of district agents in order to greater efficiency in local work.

3. We recommend that the society publish, as soon as practicable, an edition of the Bible in the revised version.

4. Inasmuch as this society asks for the support of our churches, we respectfully request that it make annual statements

covering a more detailed account of its assets, funds, receipts, and expenditures. 1898. pp. 37, 40. Memorial on, p. 355.

Report of Commission on Bible Cause 1913, pp. 33, 367, 368.

Commended: 1886, p. 38; 1907, p. 404; 1910, p. 393; 1913, p. 392; 1917, p. 45; 1919, p. 25; 1923, p. 234; 1925, p. 53; 1927, p. 221.

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions

(See also Benevolent Societies.)

That a committee be appointed to report upon the work of evangelization in foreign lands that properly devolves upon the Congregational churches of the United States. 1865, p. 151.

Report of committee on the work of the American Board in foreign lands. 1865, p. 231.

Resolved, That this National Council earnestly requests all our churches who contribute for the evangelization of papal countries to put their contributions into the hands of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions to be used for this purpose. 1871, p. 53.

That for the work of foreign missions the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions be earnestly commended to the churches; and it is advised that the funds which were formerly contributed by our churches to the operation in papal lands through the American and Foreign Christian Union be added to the contributions ordinarily made to that fund. 1874, p. 22.

Report of the Committee on Statement of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

The statement of Dr. Alden, one of the secretaries of the American Board, was mainly statistical, embracing the comparative donations of our churches in the different states during the past five years. It seems that an annual average of one dollar a member, making an annual aggregate of about $350,000 of donations, exclusive of legacies, has been contributed during this period; a few of the states, notably Rhode Island and Maryland, rising to the sum of two dollars a member, and upward.

On the *one* hand, your committee would recommend that, for the next three years, the churches in the older states attempt to raise their average to two dollars a member, while those in the younger states aim at a standard of at least one dollar a member; and that the churches in general be urged by their pastors to a combined advance movement, such as shall prevent the necessity of such special interpositions of Providence as occurred at the last meeting of the Board, remembering the injunction, "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

On the *other* hand, while they have implicit confidence in the business managers of the American Board, your committee would recommend that, if possible, in their appropriations for the future, they do not exceed the amount of contributions they have reason to expect from the churches.

Your committee are happy to record their recognition of the marked spiritual prosperity of the missionary churches, showing, as they do, an increase of thirty per cent against one of nine per cent among the home churches for the same period. They especially commend the efforts of the Board to develop in Christian women and in children the spirit and habit of benevolence through Women's Boards and Juvenile Missionary Societies, believing, as they do, that these new departures are of God and not of man. 1877, pp. 33, 118.

Resolved, That we hereby express our deep and abiding interest in the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and deem it an occasion for special gratitude to God that, in his good providence, he has committed chiefly to the body of churches which this Council represents the maintenance and care of an organization that, for practical Christian effectiveness, stands eminent, if not pre-eminent, among all missionary societies.

Resolved, That, in view of the growing numbers and wealth of our churches, the rapidly increasing funds of other great benevolent organizations, the ever opening fields, and ever louder calls for Christian labor abroad, it is greatly to be lamented that there is no adequate nor proportionate increase in the contributions to foreign missions; and that this failure to advance justly becomes, in view of the cessation of further aid from the Otis legacy, a matter of the gravest solicitude.

Resolved, That we would affectionately invite all our pastors to urge upon the several churches the peculiar claims of the foreign mission work for large contributions—claims which justify special appeals, not only by reason of the greatness of the field embraced, comprising 115,000,000 of souls committed to our separate charge, but also by reason of the fact that this one organization is responsible in the foreign fields for so many departments of Christian activity that are distributed among many organizations for the home field.

Resolved, That whatever methods can be devised for bringing the American Board and its work closer to the hearts, personal interest, and sense of responsibility of all our church members will contribute alike to their highest spiritual welfare and to the great end of our Redeemer's mission on earth. 1883, p. 26.

It was *resolved,* That the next Provisional Committee be requested to report at the next Council on the question, whether the time has not come for establishing some closer relation through this Council between our churches and those which have been established by our missionaries in foreign lands. 1886, p. 36.

1. That missionaries in the service of the American Board be invited to be present while in this country, and sit as honorary members at any regular meeting of this body.

2. That ecclesiastical bodies entitled to representation in this body, and of which missionaries are members, be recommended to elect such missionaries, if in this country, as delegates to this Council.

3. That the secretary be instructed to enter into correspondence with each mission of the Board, with a view to having some person appointed to act as a medium of communication between this body and the mission to which he belongs, who shall receive, translate, and distribute such of the papers and doings of this Council as have a bearing upon the interests of Christ's kingdom at large, and will promote a sense of oneness in our work, and strengthen the bonds of union between the home churches and the missionaries and the churches gathered by them.

4. That Rev. Henry A. Stimson, of Missouri; Rev. Henry Blodgett, of China; Rev. M. McGregor Dana, of Massachusetts; Rev. Jerome D. Davis, of Japan; Rev. Joseph K. Greene, of Turkey; Rev. James Tompkins, of Illinois; Rev. William H. Ward, of New York, be a committee to prepare a manual of Congregational usage to be used for the instruction of the members of Congregational churches on missionary grounds; that they confer with the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society with reference to publication, and that they report at the next triennial session of the Council. 1889, p. 24. Special report, p. 90; Statement of, p. 116.

Report of committee on manual for use in foreign mission churches. (Nothing suggested except that the committee found no need of any.) 1892, p. 282.

Report on Statement 1892, p. 128.

Protection of Foreign Missionaries

In the view of this Congregational National Council, representing the American churches which first organized missionary work in foreign lands, and out of whose membership a large part of our American missionaries have gone, our citizens engaged in religious and educational work abroad are entitled to the same protection from the American government as is granted to the traveler or the trader. The missionary yields or forfeits no part of his rights as a citizen of no mean country, so long as he does not disobey the laws of the nation in whose territory he may be.

We do therefore, respectfully ask and confidently expect our government to give full attention and all possible protection to such missionaries, as well as to other citizens living or visiting abroad, and we recognize the faithfulness with which this duty has been performed from time to time. In particular, the wrongs done to our missionaries in the Caroline Islands, in China, and in Turkey have not been fully atoned for or punished by the governments responsible therefor.

We deeply deplore the massacre in China of a number of missionaries of sister churches, and we ask, not in any spirit of vengeance, but with a desire for protection, that, when possible, by diplomatic representations, and, where necessary, by more vigorous action, it be made clear that our government will not fail to give all due protection to its citizens, whose work abroad is an honor to our own nation and a blessing to those countries in which their labors are expended.

We recommend that this paper be sent by the secretary of this Council to the President of the United States and the Secretary of State. 1895, p. 38.

Annual meeting first held with the National Council 1907, page 404, and so thereafter.

This is the Centennial Year of the American Board; the story of its past, which has been gathered and presented in the just published "Story of the American Board," is full of causes for gratitude and praise. The record is marvelous to human eyes, but the future promises even larger and greater things. The World Missionary Conference at Edinburgh last June sounded a new note of challenge and of promise; the vision of a united Church of Christ discipling all nations seemed nearer and more compelling than since the days of the early Church. In the deliberations and inspirations of that great conference the American Board had honorable part; in the proposals issuing from it that look to a worthier missionary advance it hopes to co-operate. It greets the dawn of its new century as the daybreak of unprecedented opportunity; both at home and abroad its outlook is bright, with promise of yet greater years ahead. From statement of the Board, 1910, p. 129.

Relation to the National Council

(Under the report of the Commission of Nineteen concurred in by the action of the American Board at its annual meeting)

The voting membership of the National Council was made the majority voting membership of the Board. "Furthermore the work of all the Societies shall be placed under the advisory supervision of a Commission on Missions chosen by the National Council, the minority being nominated by the Societies themselves.'' Accordingly provision was made in the by-laws of the Council that ''the foreign missionary work of the Congregational churches in the United States shall be carried on under the auspices of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions and co-operating Woman's Boards of Missions.'' It was also provided that the annual meetings of the Board ''falling in the same year in which the National Council holds its meetings shall be held in connection with the meetings of the Council,'' and that the Board shall make regular reports to the Council. 1913, pp. 337, 349, 350.

''*Voted:* That the American Board be given the right of way for the next few weeks for a special appeal to the Congregational constituency to enable it to close its year August 31st without adding to its present debt. 1921, p. 381.

In accordance with an overture from the American Board, a resolution recommended by the Business Committee and supported by the Commission on Missions, was presented and unanimously adopted as follows:

> The National Council, receiving the reports of its Mission Boards is impressed anew with their significant service, with the urgent need of the men, women, and children under our care, and with our opportunity, in and through these our agencies, to build the Kingdom of God.
>
> We, therefore, recognize the imperative call for the full apportionment of $5,000,000 to accomplish our work. The budgets of the Societies are real budgets. The total budget is a real need. It is not one penny more than our full share in the Christian work of the world.
>
> We look forward with confidence to raising the full apportionment in 1924 by the use of the Every Member Canvass plans now in process, and we pledge ourselves, and urge upon our fellow Congregationalists the utmost loyalty and co-operation for the attainment of that objective.
>
> But we will not wait for 1924. We here express our gratitude for the inspiration we have received at this Council. We declare our determined purpose to ''take Jesus in earnest.'' Facing the world's needs afresh, we now make our sacrificial gifts, and we call upon the members and constituents of the Congregational Churches throughout the country to join us in such gifts that we may achieve our full apportionment aim for the current year.

Pursuant to this action opportunity was given to make subscriptions to this cause. At the close of this biennial meeting of the Council these subscriptions totaled over $18,000. 1923, pp. 223, 224.

Agreement with the Annuity Fund providing annuities for foreign missionaries under certain conditions. 1925, p. 37.

(Under the report of the Committee of Twelve by amendment of the by-laws of the National Council and by concurrent action of the annual meeting of the American Board it was provided that the thirty-six elected members of the Prudential Committee of the American Board should be members of the Commission on Missions and that twelve of the members of the Prudential Committee should be nominated by states and groups of states; also that the Commission on Missions may be the Committee on Promotion of the Board and its Secretary be Secretary of Promotion of the Board. 1927, pp. 205, 225.)

For statements of the Board to the National Council see all issues of the minutes.

American College and Education Society

(See Congregational Education Society.)

American Congregational Association

(See Congregational House.)

American Congregational Union, The

(See Congregational Church Building Society.)

American Home Missionary Society

(See Congregational Home Missionary Society.)

American Missionary Association

(1865. pp. 229, 260, 411.)

EDUCATION OF THE FREEDMEN

Resolved, (1), That the overthrow of American slavery was signally the work of Almighty God, having been forced upon the nation by a series of marvelous events not less significant of God's purpose and power than those which accomplished the deliverance of ancient Israel from Egyptian bondage.

Resolved (2), That God, by thus emancipating the slaves, has signified his purpose to lead them and their race on to a Christian civilization hitherto denied them—a purpose made *practicable* by the unprecedented eagerness with which they seek after knowledge, and made *imperative* by the fact of their elevation to all the rights of citizenship; in the exercise of which, if they are not educated, our free institutions will be endangered, if not overthrown.

Resolved (3), That the overthrow of slavery has not only made the Christian education of the freedmen practicable and necessary, but it has opened the whole South and its interesting populations, native and foreign, to the introduction of our Congregational principles and polity, from which hitherto, by the oppressions that have prevailed, we have been virtually excluded; and that this opening of Providence should be regarded by us as a call from God to go in and endeavor to possess the land.

Resolved (4), That God, in his providence, having freed the slave and purposed his elevation, has raised up in the American Missionary Association an agency signally adapted to take the foremost place in the accomplishment of this great work. Not only has he prepared this people for instruction, but he has prepared instruction for this people. This society, by twenty years of labor for the oppressed, has gained the confidence of the freedmen and their friends, and, by its experience and resources, was exactly suited to take up the great work that was thrown suddenly upon the nation; and also, because of its natural and increasingly intimate relations to the Congregational churches, was admirably adapted to act as their organ in this department of Christian work. Recognizing that, under its leadership, and because of it, our churches have been more conspicuous than any others in carrying education to the freedmen, we therefore recommend to all the Congregational churches of the land that they take annual contributions to aid this association in carrying forward this great and pressing work; and we express the conviction that not less than $400,000 should be annually contributed by our churches for this purpose.

Resolved (5), That the higher educational institutions at the South under the auspices of this association—colleges, universities, and theological schools—of which there are seven, being in great need both of buildings and endowments, are commended to the prayers and sympathies of our churches, and to the special consideration of benevolent men whom the Lord has made stewards of gold and silver that are his.

Resolved (6), That in the prosecution of their work we recommend to the society that the organization and support of churches and schools should be carried forward together; and that, as the work advances, increasing attention should be given to church organization; and we recommend this because of the evidence becoming continually more apparent that the old churches gathered in the midst of slavery must to a great extent be superseded by others founded on broader principles and with a better understanding of Christian doctrine and morality.

Resolved (7), That the missions of this association among the Indians of the West and the Chinamen of the Pacific coast call for the sympathy and support of all our churches—and this on the grounds both of Christian benevolence and of their peculiar hopefulness.

Resolved (8), That the spirit of caste, and especially at the South, is one of the great hindrances to education and the harmonious organization of society; and we express approbation and encouragement to all judicious efforts to mitigate and eradicate this baneful influence, whether at the North or South, whether in our churches or colleges.

It was also *resolved,* That the matter of petitioning Congress to go to the full extent of their constitutional power in providing for the education of the colored people of the South be referred to the Provisional Committee. 1871, pp. 43, 60.

Commended to the continued support of the churches. 1874, p. 28.

Report of committee on the statement of the American Missionary Association approved. 1877. p. 29.

Paper on "Religious Aspects of the Work of," Rev. M. E. Strieby. 1877, p. 105.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONFIDENCE AND ENDORSEMENT

Resolved, That this Council give expression to their continued confidence in the American Missionary Association, and their hearty approval of its aims and methods by which the benefits of the gospel and of Christian education are carried to all classes in the regions in which they labor, and commend the association to the churches for their contributions, and urge increased liberality in their gifts in support of its urgent and prosperous work. 1883, p. 27.

Statement by Rev. M. E. Strieby on "Congregationalism in Southland," p. 117.

Resolved, That the Council recommend that the churches contribute during the coming year the sum of $350,000 to the work of the American Missionary Association.

Resolved, That the Council advise the officers of the Association and the trustees of its charitable institutions of learning to put forth every effort to secure the speedy endowment of these institutions, in order to assure their existence and permanent usefulness, and thus make it possible for the association to extend its work. 1886, p. 17. Statement of, p. 127; Report on, p. 139.

Statements of: 1889, p. 143; 1892, p. 158; 1895, p. 128; 1898, p. 264; 1901, p. 378; 1904, p. 325.

Reports on: 1889, p. 151; 1892, p. 163.

The American Missionary Association is administered by an executive committee of fifteen members, elected in five classes for a term of three years. It is recommended that the present status of the Association remain unchanged, except that the term of service for members of the executive committee shall be six years instead of three, and that no member having served for a period of six consecutive years, shall be eligible for re-election until after the lapse of two years. The nominating committee of the National Council shall serve as the nominating committee of this Association.

It is further recommended that the missionary church work of the Association, among white people, be transferred to the Congregational Home Missionary Society.

This transfer and other changes recommended later in this report will affect unequally the budgets of the various societies concerned and will involve readjustments of income, both from invested funds and from the apportionment plan. These adjustments shall be made by the responsible Boards of Directors in conference with the Commission on Missions. It is, of course. understood that the income from designated funds will be applied strictly to the purposes specified. 1915, p. 273.

For Relation to National Council see By Law X.

American Peace Society

(See also International Relations.)

Resolved, That the great subject of preserving peace between the nations of the earth still appeals to us as Christians and patriots. We see the evils which necessarily accompany or follow from any war, even though that war be apparently inevitable. We do not fail to recognize the valor and self-devotion of men who serve their country in the field; but we would avoid the need of such sacrifice. We see also the possible interference with the preaching of the gospel in mission lands involved in hostilities.

We, therefore, record our earnest approval of Christian efforts to educate our people to sentiments of peace. We warmly favor arbitration as the final means of adjusting difficulties between nations. We give our cordial and earnest support to the aim and work of the American Peace Society in its efforts to promote the general and specific objects it has in hand, and assure that organization of our co-operation in its Christian work. 1886, p. 51. Memorial, p. 364.

American Tract Society

Whereas, The American Tract Society is this year celebrating its Centennial, and

Whereas, The Society has for one hundred years rendered, and is still rendering, valuable service by the publications and distribution of Christian literature in many languages, therefore

Resolved, That we congratulate the Society on the completion of a century of service in presenting the Gospel through the printed page, and we recommend it to the consideration of our churches. 1925, p. 47.

Annuity Fund for Congregational Ministers

Memorial from the Ohio State Conference requesting consideration of a pension system for ministers similar to the Carnegie Pension Fund. 1910, p. 327.

Memorial from Southern California referred to the Board of Ministerial Relief. Report by the Board upon the subject. 1910, p. 375.

The memorial from the Wisconsin State Association on ministerial annuities was received. 1913, p. 386.

Rev. Samuel L. Loomis, New Jersey, reported on the memorial from California and presented a plan for ministerial annuities, and it was later *Voted,* That the resolutions be referred with power to the Board of Ministerial Relief, after discussion opened by Rev. Frank J. Goodwin, New Jersey. 1913, p. 399.

Address on Ministerial Annuities by Rev. Frank J. Goodwin, D. D. 1913, p. 79.

Plan reported by the Board of Relief providing a participating pension system, with a maximum benefit of $500 per year. (Known as the Original Plan.) 1913, p. 186.

The resolutions establishing the Fund were as follows:

First, That the Board of Ministerial Relief be instructed to undertake this work and to create a department in accordance with this general plan, to be known as the Department of Annuities.

Second, That, if necessary, an application be made to legislature of the state of Connecticut that the charter of the Board of Ministerial Relief be so amended that the Annuity Fund may be made a department of its work; or that a new charter be secured in Connecticut, or some other state, to cover the field of Ministerial Annuity. And in the event of its being necessary to secure a new charter for the work of annuity, that the officers of the Board of the Annuity Fund and the Board of Ministerial Relief be the same individuals, but that their funds shall be kept separate and distinct, and that all their meetings shall be held independently.

Third, That the Board of Ministerial Relief be empowered to secure such funds and to engage such assistants and to take such other steps as in its judgment may be necessary for the efficient inauguration and prosecution of this undertaking, and to carry out the will of the National Council as expressed in its action on the Annuity Fund.

Fourth, That the ministers of the church be appealed to in the interest of their brethren, and their families, to join the Fund at once and to make a united and determined effort to secure a large representation of the ministers of our denomination in the same.

Fifth, That churches and individuals be urged to make such a generous offering of funds at the outset of the movement, that this long-delayed and most important branch of the work of our denomination may be an assured success.

Sixth, That in the light of the urgency of the need and the duty of our church to accomplish this undertaking in a manner worthy of the traditions of our denomination; and in order to give permanency and stability to the Fund, and to secure as large annuity payments to our ministers as possible from the inauguration of the Fund, we recommend that an earnest and united effort be made to raise as soon as practicable, an endowment fund of not less than $2,000,000, the income of which shall be applied toward the 80 per cent of the annuities apportioned to the churches. When we remember the £250,000 Sustentation Fund of our English Congregational brethren; the elaborate plan of the American Protestant Episcopal Church for clerical pensions; that the Presbyterian Church is planning to raise $10,000,000 for its Annuity Fund and Ministerial Relief; and that the Methodist Church not only backs the fund for its ministers with a great and profitable book concern, but is raising a $5,000,000 ''jubilee fund'' for conference claimants, this suggestion which we submit to the Council can only appear as a bold but conservative proposition, which the Congregational Church can certainly make a living reality, if it has faith and determination so to do. 1913, pp. 201, 202, 203, 204. Table of rates pp. 202, 203.

Report of the Annuity Fund for Congregational Ministers 1915, p. 217.

The special committee appointed to report on the Board of Ministerial Relief and the Annuity Fund presented the following resolutions which were adopted:

> 1. That it is the conviction of this National Council that the supreme duty of the years in which we approach the Tercentenary of the Landing of the Pilgrims is the securing of a fund of not less than $3,000,000 of which $1,000,000 shall be devoted to Ministerial Relief and $2,000,000 to the Annuity Fund.

2. To this end we request the Board of Ministerial Relief and the Trustees of the Annuity Fund to use all worthy means to hasten the completion of these funds.

3. Further we commend these causes to the special care of the Commission on Missions, requesting them to co-operate with these Boards so to adjust our method of offerings as to provide an adequate hearing for them.

4. Further we urge that particular stress be laid upon lifting the payments from churches and individuals to the Annuity Fund to provide that these shall match in the ratio of four to one the payments from our ministers and give promise that the full pension of $500.00 shall be provided. 1915, pp. 51, 52.

Report on the Annuity Fund. 1917, p. 361.

Rev. C. S. Mills here introduced the following plan for the expansion of the Annuity Fund recommended by the Commission on Missions:

The Plan

The continuation of the plan in its present form until December 31, 1921.

After December 31, 1921, new members shall be admitted to the Fund only under a revised form of certificate, providing under separate agreement the following benefits:

(*a*) An old age pension.

(*b*) A benefit available in case of total disability.

(*c*) Term insurance benefits, protecting the minister's dependents, against this untimely death.

While normally all three of these benefits should be arranged for, the minister will be at liberty to enroll in the Fund on the basis of the first only.

The cost of the above benefits to come normally from two sources:

(*a*) The proceeds of the Pilgrim Memorial Fund. These would be distributed equally among all members whether they enter under the original or revised plan.

(*b*) The second source of the necessary premiums contemplated would be annual payments by the minister and the church he serves. These payments would need to cover the portion of the cost not met by (*a*). It is contemplated that this should be divided between minister and church by mutual agreement in the proportion of perhaps one-third to two-thirds and that churches be urged to regard this as one of the regular items of their budgets. Failing such payment by the

> church it would be necessary for the minister to make the payment himself or secure it from some other source.

Any funds provided through benevolent contributions, in addition to the income of the Pilgrim Memorial Fund, would be applied, as designated, for increasing the annuity benefits under the present plan, or for reducing the premium payments under the expanded plan.

A premium of 6% of his salary from age 30 on will be required of each member to provide at age 65 an annuity equivalent to one-half of the annual salary received during this period. A proportionate annuity will be available for any one who shall have been a member for a shorter period. It is estimated that on the average 2% additional will provide satisfactory disability and death benefits.

For the purposes of this Fund the minimum salary shall be considered to be $1,000 in order to provide for a minimum annuity, after payment for the full term, of $500. Aid in making their premium payments to those receiving salaries of less than $1,000 in order that such payments shall reach the stipulated percentage of $1,000 shall be made a first charge against the income of the Pilgrim Memorial Fund after deduction of expense of administration.

The Commission on Missions requests that it be authorized, in conference with the Board of Ministerial Relief and the Trustees of the Annuity Fund, to work out the details of the expanded plan.

The plan as recommended by the Commission was adopted unanimously.

Rev. J. T. Stocking announced a gift of $10,000 to the Fund. 1917, pp. 49, 50, 51.

The following resolutions were passed by the National Council:

We recommend that the Council reiterate the approval of the National Council of 1917 given to this element of the plan, and express the earnest hope that every church in our fellowship will assume at least one half of the dues for its pastor's annuity as an item in the regular budget of expense, and

We recommend that the Commission on the Status of the Ministry, in conjunction with committees duly appointed by the several State Conferences and Local Associations, see that this matter is definitely presented to the boards of trustees or other responsible officials of all the churches of our fellowship.

Whereas, The Trustees of the Annuity Fund, the Directors of the Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief and the Executive Committee of the Pilgrim Memorial Fund Commission unite in suggesting that a way should be found, if possible, to bring a further unity of administration, or possibly a consolidation of said Boards; and

Whereas, They recommend that the National Council should give to them authority to work out any such readjustment or consolidation as may appear to them to be wise and practicable, with such changes of charter and incorporation as may be needed, it being understood that these plans before being adopted shall have the approval of the Commission on Missions and of the Corporation for the National Council.

We recommend that the authority requested be granted. 1921, pp. 366, 367, 368.

Comity with the Presbyterians when ministers are transferred from one denomination to the other. 1923, pp. 212-215.

Articles of incorporation in the State of New Jersey. 1923, p. 267.

Arrangement for annuities for missionaries of the American Board. 1925, p. 37.

Relation of the Annuity Fund to the Benevolent Societies. 1925, p. 62. 1927, p. 197, (i) (1)

The Commission on Missions recommends to the National Council that the Commission on Missions be requested to undertake to devise a plan of annuities for unordained missionaries and lay workers in the employ of our churches and the missionary enterprises, and if the plan be deemed expedient and desirable, to put it into operation provided that no new capital fund shall be required for its successful initiation;

That in case such a fund seem requisite that report be made to that effect by the Commission on Missions to the next National Council with their recommendations thereon. 1927, p. 196.

Annuities for unordained workers. 1929, pp. 142-146, 206.

Anti-Saloon League

(See also Temperance.)

The Council, recognizing the successful work that other organizations are doing, recommends that the Congregational Churches give to the Anti-Saloon League, as the chief leader in the fight for National Prohibition, its special sympathy and support. 1917, p. 37.

Resolved, That we recognize the notable work of the Anti-Saloon League as an agency of the churches in the past, that we recommend to its officers a careful review of policy in consultation with leaders of church bodies, both state and national, and that in anticipation of such review and subsequent adjustments, we recommend it to the continued and active support of our constituency in serving the cause of law and order in general as well as prohibition in particular. 1927, p. 222.

Commended: 1919, p. 49; 1923, p. 235; 1925, p. 50.

Apportionment

Resolved, That this National Council of Congregational Churches heartily approve the action of the Advisory Committee of the national benevolent societies [appointed at the request of a previous Council], which, [after consultation with the officers of the several societies, and most careful study of the immediate and urgent needs of the various departments of our work,] has recommended that the Congregational churches of our country undertake to raise not less than $2,000,000 in donations from living givers, and has, for the first time in our denominational history, issued a united appeal for our entire missionary work, and has indicated the amount which each state needs to raise in order to secure this amount.

Resolved, That we endorse the apportionment indicated by this Advisory Committee, viz., that our churches try to raise for the American Board not less than $560,000; for Home Missions, $470,000; for the American Missionary Association, $250,000; for the Congregational Church Building Society, $170,000; for the Congregational Education Society, $110,000; for the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society, $100,000; for Ministerial Relief, $40,000; which, with the $300,000 which the woman's boards will raise, will make up the total needed; and this Council advises and urges all our state and local bodies to do their utmost to encourage and assist the churches in their borders to secure the full amount indicated by the Advisory Committee as necessary for the full success of this effort. 1907, p. 425.

That the Moderator, Secretary, and Treasurer be authorized to enter into conference with the officers of the missionary societies and state associations with a view to bringing about the recommendations of the Advisory Committee of the societies on apportioned benevolences. 1907, p. 427.

From the Report of the Advisory Committee:

The Advisory Committee was appointed also with special reference to the task of undertaking to systematize the missionary benevolences of our churches with a view to the adequate support of the work of these societies. The National Council recommended: "That this Advisory Committee take such measures as they deem advisable, looking to the organization in all our conferences and states of missionary committees to urge upon the churches the adoption of definite and systematic plans of benevolence, and the appointment of local committees to carry these plans into effect."

The committee is happy to report that this purpose of its appointment has been quite thoroughly accomplished.

The Advisory Committee has also prepared and published what is known as the Apportionment Plan. It is now four years since the first apportionment was made and sent out to the several states with the request that the state conferences would take it up, and apportion the amounts asked among the churches of the state. 1910, pp. 378, 379.

It was *Resolved,* That a committee of eleven on the Apportionment Plan, representative of the societies, of state apportionment committees, and of pastors and laymen at large, be appointed at this morning session, whose duty shall be to consider the present situation of the Apportionment Plan, to pass upon memorials and proposals which are made to this Council regarding it or which may be brought to the committee's attention at one or more public hearings, and to recommend ways and means whereby the plan may be more fully carried out; such recommendations to be submitted as early in this session as possible.

Samuel T. Johnson reported for the Committee of Eleven as follows:

1. *Resolved,* That the Council hereby reaffirms the approval given to the Apportionment Plan in 1907 and recognizes it as the fundamental financial policy of our Congregational missionary work.

2. *Resolved,* That a National Council Apportionment Commission be established, to consist of one representative appointed by each of the following organizations: The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, the Congregational Home Missionary Society, the American Missionary Association, the Congregational Education Society, the Congregational Church Building Society, the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society, the Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief, the Woman's Board of Missions, the Woman's Board of Missions of the Interior, the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific, the Woman's Home Missionary Federation, the Congregational Brotherhood of America; and six members elected by the Council from different sections of the country, together with the Secretary of the Council *ex officio.* The duty of this Commission shall be (1) to adopt a general budget containing the amounts to be asked for the several Benevolent Societies; (2) to employ such means as may seem desirable in administering the Apportionment

Plan so as to secure from the churches adequate support for Congregational missionary and benevolent enterprises.

3. *Resolved,* That in order to provide for the work of this Commission, and also for such administrative expenses of State apportionment committees as shall be approved by the Commission, the Benevolent Societies be asked to make appropriations in accordance with their respective shares of the Apportionment. No appropriation shall be used for the salaries of State officers as such.

4. *Resolved,* That, pending the establishment of the Apportionment Commission and the consequent inclusion of the Woman's Boards as a constituent part of the Apportionment Plan, the Council recommends (1) that for the year 1911 the apportionments for the work of these Boards be included as a supplementary statement in the communications of the State and Association committees to the local churches; (2) that woman's work be represented on State apportionment committees.

5. *Resolved,* That, beginning with 1911, the figures of contributions from the churches to the Benevolent Societies published in the Year-Book be secured by the Secretary of the National Council from the treasurers of these Societies; that a column be provided for the Woman's Boards as well as for each one of the seven Societies, with a total of the same; a column for other Congregational benevolence and one for other benevolence not Congregational.

6. *Resolved,* That in order to simplify the furnishing of these figures and also the general Apportionment situation, the Apportionment Commission is instructed to bring to the attention of the Societies the wisdom of adopting a common fiscal year.

7. *Resolved,* That the Council believes the Apportionment already made by the Advisory Committee should be loyally accepted by the States for 1910 and for 1911, but that as early as possible during 1911, and yearly thereafter, there should be held a consultation between the Apportionment Commission and representatives of the State apportionment committees, at which the whole matter of the sums apportioned to the different sections of the country and the several States should be thoroughly considered, and if possible, a unanimous agreement secured as to both the principles and the details of such Apportionment. The Council also recommends the holding of similar consultations between State committees and local Association committees, and between local Association committees and their churches.

The report was accepted and the resolutions adopted.

References to the Apportionment Plan: 1910, pp. 133, 136, 160, 162, 163, 167; 1927, pp. 38, 46, 195.

Report of the Apportionment Commission: 1913, pp. 205, 220.

Epaphroditus Peck, Connecticut, presented the report of the Committee on Report of the Apportionment Commission, which was accepted, and later Resolutions 1, 2, 9, and 10 were adopted; and Resolutions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 were referred to the Commission on Missions, together with the suggestion to society treasurers concerning special funds received for the work of the society named. 1913, p. 396.

The resolutions adopted appear to be as follows:

(1) That the present Apportionment Commission continue to administer the Apportionment Plan until January 1, 1914, the expenses to be provided by the Societies as at present;

(2) That, provided a Commission on Missions be established by the Council, after that date the administration of the Apportionment Plan be one of its duties. 1913, p. 216.

(3) That the following be recognized as essential parts of this policy;

a. Missionary Education Amony Adults: to teach our church members the real value of missions.

b. Missionary Education in the Sunday School, with a view to the church of the future: to be conducted as an integral part of the religious education which the Sunday School is designed to furnish.

c. Apportionment: to provide a way by which the contributions of each church to the established missionary work of all the churches may be definite, proportioned and regular, like the contributions to its own support.

d. The Every-Member Canvass: to secure not only more givers and larger gifts, but, what is of far greater importance, to win through personal contact a permanent increase in the number of those who know and love the cause of missions.

e. The Every-Church Campaign: to visit an entire group of churches during a given time, under the auspices of the State and Association Missionary Committees, until ultimately every church in the nation is reached with a personal explanation of the foregoing plans and with first-hand information of what is being done on the field.

(4) That the Commission on Missions, if it is established, be charged with the general carrying out of this policy and that the Congregational Missionary Societies be asked to co-operate in making it effective. 1913, p. 219.

The following recommendations of the Commission were adopted by the Council:

That the Commission on Missions be instructed to carry forward the Apportionment Plan along the general lines indicated in its report.

That State Apportionment Committees be urged to use all possible diligence to bring the groups of churches served by them to the adoption of the standard proposed by the national Commission and to lift their giving to the amounts named in the schedules.

That the Executive Committee and the Commission on Missions be instructed to confer as to the possibility of maintaining an Apportionment Secretary and if the way be open to join in selecting such an official to serve under the general direction of the Commission on Missions and its Secretary. 1915, pp. 47, 48.

Report of the Commission on Missions regarding the Apportionment Plan. 1915, p. 264.

Voted: That the Apportionment aim for the coming biennium be as heretofore, $2,000,000, of which sum assignment shall be made for the year 1918, to the various causes in the following proportions:

A. B. C. F. M.	28%	Woman's Boards	15%
C. H. M. S.	23½"	A. M. A.	13½ "
C. C. B. S.	8½ "	C. E. S.	6½ "
C. S. S.	3 "	M. R.	2 "

and for the year 1919 in such proportion as shall be determined by the Commission on Missions after consultation with the officers of the National Societies and of the State Conferences. 1917, pp. 56, 57.

Rev. W. W. Scudder, with an introduction by Mr. L. C. Warner, presented as a supplementary report of the Commission on Missions the "Plans Suggested by Apportionment Convention." (P. 204.)

Plans were approved. 1917, p. 64.

Supplementary Report, 1917, pp. 204-212.

Undenominational Causes

Voted: That the National Council commend to the Commission on Missions the wisdom of setting apart 1% of the apportionment to meet our fair quotas in the support of such undenominational causes as the American Bible Society, the Federal Council of Churches, the Protestant Churches of Europe; which at present are seeking support through appeals to the churches individually, thus obviating the need of such appeals. 1923, p. 194.

Congregational World Movement

Report of the Commission on the Congregational World Movement on Apportionment Giving. 1921, pp. 112-121. (Until 1920 the apportionment goal was $2,000,000. Following the action of the 1919 Council an emergency appeal was made under the Congregational World Movement for $3,000,000 in addition to the regular giving. For 1921 this $3,000,000 was combined with the original $2,000,000 apportionment and the $5,000,000 apportionment was assigned to the states and churches. The record of this original effort to lift the apportionment is given in the above report of the Congregational World Movement.)

We, therefore, recognize the imperative call for the full apportionment of $5,000,000 to accomplish our work. The budgets of the Societies are real budgets. The total budget is a real need. It is not one penny more than our full share in the Christian work of the world.

We look forward with confidence to raising the full apportionment in 1924 by the use of the Every Member Canvass plans now in process, and we pledge ourselves, and urge upon our fellow Congregationalists the utmost loyalty and co-operation for the attainment of that objective. 1923, p. 223.

The following recommendations of the Commission on Missions were adopted:

1. That the apportionment of $5,000,000.00 be approved for the coming biennium.

2. That the Foundation for Education be continued on the apportionment for 1925 and 1926.

3. That the budget of the COMMISSION ON MISSIONS for common promotion, be approved subject to the concurrence of the Societies, for an amount not to exceed $141,000.00 for 1924 and not to exceed $150,000.00 in 1925, exclusive of any amounts which may be expended by state and local organizations out of their own funds—the same to be assessed upon the several National Causes in proportions to be determined by the Commission on Missions. 1923, p. 199.

Report of the Commission on Missions on the Apportionment. 1923, pp. 26, 27.

The Commission recommends that the apportionment askings for 1927 and 1928 be continued at $5,000,000 per annum. 1925, p. 23.

Under the report of the Committee of Twelve the following was adopted:

In order to avoid the necessity of an appeal by the Annuity Fund to the Churches, we recommend that such designation in the apportionment as the Commission on Missions may determine for the Annuity Fund be added to the designation for Ministerial Relief for transmission to the Annuity Fund. 1925, p. 62.

In view of the simplification of percentages through the proposed plan, we suggest that in the future the Survey Committee of the Commission on Missions, after conference with representatives from the states and the Home and Foreign Boards, shall present at the mid-winter conference three percentages for each state, one for state work, one for the foreign work, and one for the home work; and arrange with the Home Board for subdivision of its apportionment. These percentages should then be acted on by the states, which having once adopted them should adhere to them for the entire year. 1925, p. 64.

Report of the Commission on Missions on the Apportionment. 1925, pp. 111, 112. (This report describes the processes of adjustment . . . among the societies and states, also that of "Other Apportionment Items.")

Table of apportionment for 1926. 1925, p. 132.

The following recommendations of the Commission were adopted:

The Commission recommends that the apportionment askings for 1929 and 1930 be continued at $5,000,000 per annum.

The Commission recommends to the Council consideration of the question as to whether the churches desire to continue in the apportionment a share for the work of the Foundation for Education. 1927, p. 195.

Armenians

(See also Near East Relief.)

Whereas, The National Council of Congregational Churches in triennial session assembled regards with deepest concern the inhuman atrocities still continued against Armenians and other subjects in the Ottoman empire, for which the government of that empire is responsible, therefore,

Resolved, That, in our judgment, the time has come when the government of the United States should take such measures, in co-operation with the other great Powers, as will not only effectually protect all American citizens, missionaries, and others in Turkish dominions, but in the name of our common humanity will present a determined protest against these barbarities; and that our government should give moral support to the movement of European Powers to cause these outrages to cease, to the extent, if necessary, of the abolition of the Turkish government.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the Secretary of State at Washington. 1895, p. 33.

A resolution concerning Armenian atrocities submitted by Rev. J. L. Barton of Massachusetts was adopted and as later amended is as follows:

> The National Council of Congregational Churches of the United States assembled in New Haven, Connecticut, profoundly moved by the unquestioned evidence of unprecedented atrocities committed on the non-Mohammedan population of Turkey, by order of the central government raises its voice in protest and urges upon the President of the United States to do all in his power to save the remnant of those stricken races and to secure in this endeavor the cooperation of all neutral nations, and the allies of Turkey.
>
> *Voted:* That the resolutions on Peace and the Armenian situation be presented to President Wilson by a deputation of six men of which the Moderator shall be chairman. 1915, pp. 40, 43.

On recommendation of the Business Committee the following resolutions were adopted:

In view of the one hundred years of philanthropic service to all the peoples of Turkey and the large investment of life and property made by the people of America through the Christian Church, in view of the present crisis threatening not only the continuance of this humanitarian service but the very existence of the people for whom it was established, and in view of the fact that the United States is the only one of the great powers which is in a position to render this service;

Be it therefore Resolved: That it is the earnest conviction of the National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States assembled in Grand Rapids that action should immediately be taken by the United States to protect the people of Armenia, such as is contemplated in the Williams Resolution now before the Senate.

Be it further Resolved: That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, the Committee on Foreign Relations and the leaders of the Majority and Minority parties in the United States Senate. 1919, pp. 24, 25.

The National Council expresses the deep sympathy of our churches for the churches and Christian peoples in lands where there is suffering through war, famine or earthquake. We send to the churches and people of Japan our sincere and affectionate greeting and an expression of international good will. To the stricken people of Armenia, sorely persecuted, we send our assurance of sympathy in their manifold sorrow. Our hearty good wishes are extended to the Armenian Red Cross in its work in Japan, and we commend the work of the Near East Relief to the continued consideration of our churches. We heartily commend the American Board for its resolution to restore and continue its work in Turkey, and to care for Armenian refugees in the lands of their exile. 1923, p. 237.

Army and Navy

Resolved, That, inasmuch as all our soldiers and sailors are deserving of religious care, means should be taken to meet their needs in this respect so far as is practicable, and that a committee of five be appointed to consider this subject, and, if they see fit, to memorialize Congress in relation to it.

Resolved, (1), That this Council is in hearty sympathy with every proper movement for the improvement of the moral and spiritual condition of the soldiers of our army.

Resolved (2), That we urge the proper legislative and executive officers of the government to make such provision for religious teachers and other means for moral and religious instruction, that every man who wears the uniform of the United States may have within his reach the preaching of the gospel and other recognized means of moral and spiritual improvement.

Resolved (3), That we urge upon Congress to make provision by appropriations for a suitable chapel at each permanent military post, where religious services may be held; and we press upon the attention of the churches the desirabilty of providing moral and religious reading for the libraries and reading rooms of all such posts.

Resolved (4), That the newly appointed committee on the army and navy be instructed to present the subject of these resolutions to the proper legislative and executive departments of the government. 1892, pp. 41-44. Report on, p. 290.

Voted, to commend the general principles of the bill now before Congress in relation to chaplains. 1895, p. 40.

It was *voted:* That in view of the memorial from the Association of the Chaplains of the Military and Naval Forces of the United States referring to the peculiar hardships and temptations of our soldiers and sailors,

That the National Council appoint a Commission of Three to co-operate with committees of other churches to promote the moral and religious welfare of the men under the flag.

There were elected: Rev. Oliver Huckel, Maryland; Rev. John W. Frizzell and Rev. Edwin M. Bliss, District of Columbia. 1913, p. 392.

On recommendation of the Commission on the Welfare of Men Under the Flag the following was adopted:

Recognizing the value to the churches of the United States of the reports of religious bodies, statistical and descriptive, issued by the Bureau of the Census, the National Council of Congregational Churches now in session desires to express its gratification that another Census of Religious Bodies is to be taken during the year 1916, and to assure the Director of Census that the churches here represented, as well as the officers of this Council, stand ready to assist the Bureau of the Census in all practicable ways to the work of taking the Census. 1915, p. 48.

On recommendation of the Executive Committee it was

Voted: That a National Service Commission of 25 persons be appointed, charged with leadership in the field of the national and international obligations of our churches.

That it be directed to give early and diligent attention to the duties arising from the war, especially reenforcing the work of chaplains and the Y. M. C. A.; aiding churches near training camps to meet the demand upon them; co-operating with the government food administrator; promoting patriotic response to the nation's needs; serving the welfare of the young men whom we are sending to war; and furnishing the churches all possible help in their study of the world problems, in solution of which they must share.

That this Commission be authorized to raise at its discretion during the coming year a sum not exceeding $100,000 for the purpose of its work to be expended as it may determine. 1917, pp. 47, 48.

We ask all our people to carry upon their hearts the welfare of our army and navy. For these young men going out from our homes let ceaseless prayers arise. Let no pains be spared to provide for their welfare. Let every effort be put forth to guard them from temptation. Let them be left in no doubt of the solemn pride which we feel in them, as, on behalf of the world, they address themselves to their heroic task.

With our whole heart we would commend the National Government for the effort it has made for the care of our soldiers and sailors, not only in the interests of military efficiency, but also of their highest personal welfare; for the creation and encouragement of other agencies laboring for this end, especially the Fosdick Commission and the War Council of the Y. M. C. A., whose ably planned and executed work we would commend to our churches as their own best representative in the effort at co-operation which we are sure they will be eager to put forth. And on behalf of the Congregational Churches we would pledge to these agencies our material and spiritual support. 1917, pp. 53, 54.

Voted: That the Education Society be asked to release Rev. H. A. Atkinson to co-operate with the Commission in such measure as it may desire and circumstances permit, a suitable portion of his salary being assumed by the Commission. 1917, p. 56.

Resolved: That the National Service Commission constituted by the National Council of Congregational Churches at its meeting held in Columbus, Ohio, in 1917, be and hereby is discharged from further duties, and that the continuance and completion of any work within the scope of its original constitution be committed to the Social Service Commission. 1919, p. 31.

II. Army and Navy Chaplains

Rev. Charles S. Macfarland, Secretary of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, was granted the privilege of reading a set of resolutions on Army and Navy Chaplains, which, on motion, were adopted. (For text see 1923, pp. 234, 235.)

Report on 1915, p. 361; 1919, p. 229.

Benevolent Societies

(See also Apportionment and under the names of Societies.)

I. General

Classification of, to be recommended to the patronage of the churches, 1865, p. 222. Report of Committee on, pp. 135, 410.

That the committee to whom the report on home evangelization was referred be requested to consider the expediency of organizing some system of benevolent effort by which, in the various regions of the country where the education of the whole population is not provided for by law, teachers may be sent forth in company with missionaries, and schools be established wherever churches are gathered. 1865, p. 234.

That each of the several benevolent societies named in the report of the committee on the evangelization of the West and South be desired and enjoined to adopt the most efficient means in its power to secure the sum proposed as its quota of the $750,000.

That, regarding this as the most significant of all the practical measures that have occupied the attention of the Council, we do hereby pledge ourselves to our Father and our Savior, who has redeemed us, and to each other, that we will carry out to the letter this recommendation in all the churches throughout the land, co-operating with the secretaries and agents of the societies referred to in any effort they may wisely and zealously adopt.

That the Council recommend to the American Congregational Union, without arresting or delaying the special efforts now in progress or ready to be put forth in behalf of the churches needing aid for the erection of the houses of worship, to call for a simultaneous collection on the Sabbath preceding Forefathers' Day, December 17, when every Congregational church, large or small, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, shall contribute what it can towards the $200,000 for church building. Let the good work be finished in a day, and give the proper punctuation to this memorable meeting.

That an appeal be issued from the Council and placed, so far as may be, in the hands of every member of every Congregational church in the country, urging the duty and privilege of self-denying benevolence, with immediate reference to the object contemplated in this paper.

That we undertake this work, not in our own strength, not for our own glory, but with humble dependence upon Him whose are the silver and the gold and the hearts of men; and in humble imitation of Him who said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," to Him be glory by the church throughout all ages. 1865, p. 465.

In view of the pressing and ever growing demands upon the churches to sustain the great benevolent societies to which we contribute, and to enable these societies to prosecute the work evidently laid upon them by the great Head of the church, it seems very desirable, and the Council earnestly recommend to the churches, that systematic and regular contributions be made to them, and to the pastors, that they fail not to present these claims of the societies to their congregations and instruct them in regard to the same. 1871, p. 42.

Whereas, God, through his Holy Spirit, put it into the hearts of his people assembled in the city of Providence, Rhode Island, to pay the debt of the American Board.

Resolved (1), That we recognize the gracious interposition of the Lord in this marked deliverance from what threatened to be a grievous burden.

Resolved (2), That we earnestly hope that the advance movement recommended at the meeting at Providence, Rhode Island, to carry the contributions for foreign missions up to $500,000 will be successful, and we promise our best endeavors to secure this result.

Resolved (3), That we sincerely hope and pray that the efforts now being made to clear the debts of the American Home Missionary Society and the American Missionary Association may also prove speedily successful. 1877, p. 59.

It was *voted,* That a standing committee of three be appointed to ascertain and report at the next meeting of the Council what has been accomplished since this meeting in city evangelization. 1886, p. 49.

Whereas, It is proved that the agency of the local Congregational City Missionary Society, incorporated and having its board of trustees, is the best intermediary between the American Home Missionary Society, or the American Congregational Union, and the field, and is most likely to devise wisely in the selection of places for religious work and worship, this Council earnestly and urgently commends the formation of these local missionary societies in all cities where they do not exist. See Bible Readers' School. 1889, p. 47.

Resolved, That it be suggested to the Provisional Committee to give in 1895 an entire evening to the report on city evangelization and the discussion thereon. Report of committee, pp. 30, 239; 1892, p. 37.

A memorial from a conference of our seven national societies, suggesting that the National Council arrange for a convention of said societies for the illustration of their work, in connection with the meeting of the Council in 1895, was received, and it was *resolved,* That the provisional committee be instructed to confer with the officers and managers of our national societies, and, if they deem best, arrange for the holding of a national missionary convention as suggested by the joint committee of the seven societies. 1892, p. 31.

Resolved, That we recommend the appointment of a central committee on missionary work of fifteen members—six to be appointed by the National Council, one being a woman, to represent the home missionary interests; seven to be chosen by the executive committees of our six missionary societies in such manner as they may deem best, one to be chosen by the Women's Boards of Missions, and one to be selected at the annual Christian Endeavor convention by the Congregationalists at their denominational rally.

It shall be the duty of this committee to use all possible efforts to secure the appointment of similar committees in the states and conferences throughout the country, to devise plans for promptly paying the debt of every society, and for such increased gifts as shall make it possible to enlarge our work at home and abroad. It shall also suggest such other measures looking to a closer union in the presentation of our common work as may seem expedient, reporting the result of its conclusions to the next National Council.

Resolved, That this Council, at this session, choose its six representatives upon the committee, and that they be instructed by us to ask the co-operation of our missionary societies and the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, and in selecting the remaining members of the committee as proposed. 1898, p. 27.

Report of Committee on City Evangelization. 1898, pp. 36, 283.

II. Relation to the Churches

Report of Committee on the Relation of the Churches to Missions. 1880, p. 202.

Resolved, That this Council appoint a committee of thirteen to act in connection with committees which our national benevolent societies have appointed or shall appoint to consider the relations of these societies to the churches, and for the guidance of the said committees the Council declares its opinion in favor of steps which in due time will make the said societies the representatives of the churches, and the said committee shall communicate to the churches, through the public press, the results of its inquiries and deliberations at as early a date as possible. Memorial from General Conference of Connecticut and report of committee, p. 267. 1889, p. 30.

Resolved (1), That this Council earnestly desires that all the benevolent societies shall be made in reality, and not in any figurative sense only, the representatives of the churches.

Resolved (2), That this Council, appreciating the importance of the unanimous action of the American Board at its last meeting in adopting measures looking towards the representation of the churches in the Board, expresses its gratification at such action; and the Council further expresses the earnest hope that the Board, through its committee already appointed, will devise such measures as will secure such desired representation, and that these measures may be such as will show the confidence of the Board in the churches and result in increased confidence of the churches in the Board.

Resolved (3), That the associations of churches be advised to make nominations during the coming year to fill vacancies in the Board, in response to the proposal of the Board as adopted at the last annual meeting.

Resolved (4), That a committee of nine be appointed, to whom shall be referred the subject of representation of the churches in the societies in reference to the best methods of combining stability in administration and the principle of representation of the churches. Report of committee, p. 211; 1892, p. 26.

1. That the American Board continue the plan upon which it entered three years ago, whereby it invites the various state bodies to nominate candidates for corporate membership.

2. That our various home societies, at the earliest practicable moment, so far adopt the fourth plan as set forth in the report on this subject of the committee of 1892 as to arrange for the holding of their annual meetings at the same place and within the limits of one week.

3. That this meeting be so arranged that it shall divide the year with the American Board, and so that when the American Board meeting is in the East the home meeting shall be held in the West.

4. That a committee be appointed to confer with the secretaries of the various societies, with a view to carrying out the provisions of these recommendations. Report on, p. 257. 1895, p. 32.

Report of committee on relation of benevolent societies to the churches. 1898, p. 356.

It was *voted,* that this Council appoint a commission of fifteen, including a representation from each of our benevolent societies, who shall report at its next regular meeting, to consider the wisdom and possibility of the administration of the benevolent interests of our churches through representatives chosen in the national organization, care being taken to safeguard existing constitutional provisions of these societies and the present membership of their boards of control. 1907, p. 413.

Report of the Commission of Fifteen (1910, pp. 237-240) presenting for the careful consideration of the Council the following questions:

I. Should the function of the Council be so enlarged as to include administrative powers?

II. Should the Council provide for annual instead of triennial sessions?

III. Should the Council request the several benevolent societies so to amend their constitutions as to constitute the delegates to the Council the electorate of the several societies, provided, however, that such electorate may be increased by the addition of members at large, and that the several societies shall in other respects remain as at present constituted?

IV. Should the Council provide for the traveling expenses of its delegates?

V. Should the Council provide for an equal representation of laymen with clergymen? 1910, p. 239.

III. Commission of Nineteen

Report of the Commission. 1913, pp. 332-355.

The statement of the Commission regarding the relation of the societies to the churches and to each other is as follows:

> In regard to the societies, as has already been indicated in the denominational press, the report now submitted departs radically from that originally laid before the churches. The former proposition that a "Home Board of Missions" be created has aroused much criticism and has been abandoned. Instead, the Commission recommends that the National Council, as such, shall become the majority of the voting membership of each of the societies, home and foreign. Each society shall also have the right to choose, in addition to the membership of the National Council, a certain number of corporate members-at-large, so that the support of special friends and benefactors of its work may be retained. Furthermore, the work of all the societies shall be placed under the advisory supervision of a "Commission on Missions" chosen by the National Council, a minority being nominated by the societies themselves. By these recommendations all the missionary societies will be brought into direct and similar relations with the churches through the National Council, and will be under the supervision of a single commission of that Council. That commission can also serve, if the Council so orders, as the Apportionment Commission. 1913, p. 337.

The process of carrying out these provisions is embodied in the By-laws, Articles X and XI.

(See also, Commission of Nineteen.)

IV. United Appeal

Resolved (8), That we recommend that the executive boards of each of our five home societies consider the proposition of having an *advisory committee* of seven chosen from their own number, which shall hold stated meetings and to which all questions having to do with their joint work shall be referred for advice.

Resolved (9), That we recommend that this Advisory Committee of nine be empowered, at its discretion, to employ a secretary who shall devote his time to the promotion of systematic benevolence in the interest of the six societies of our churches, as outlined in this report. 1901, pp. 27, 28-30.

That the Council appoint a carefully chosen Commission on Polity, of not less than fifteen members, empowered to give further consideration to the questions of polity on which the Council is not ready to express a decisive judgment; to formulate a consistent and practicable scheme of natural administration; to test its conclusions, if necessary, by a referendum to the churches; and to submit to the next Council a constitution and by-laws which shall express the usages of present-day Congregationalism.

That the Council make provision for the expenses of this Commission. 1910, p. 370.

(Later known as the Commission of Nineteen. Which see.)

Commendations: 1880, p. 22; 1883, p. 26; 1895, pp. 25, 200.

Report of Advisory Committee, composed of representatives of the societies on the advice of the National Council to constitute a committee to which all questions having to do with their joint work shall be referred for advice, and with the members of the American Board to constitute a committee on benevolence of the churches in their relation to the missionary societies. 1910, p. 377.

Report of the Commission on Missions regarding common promotion. 1923, pp. 28-32.

(See also Commission on Missions.)

That in view of the conditions confronting our Missionary Boards they be permitted and authorized by the National Council to make a joint appeal to our Congregational fellowship for a sum of approximately $200,000 to be participated in by the Boards, or Societies, both home and foreign, in proportion to their urgent needs as decided upon by the representatives of the Societies in counsel and co-operation with the Executive Committee of the Commission on Missions, with the understanding that the money thus raised is not for the purpose of providing for deficits but for the purpose of preventing the American Board from making costly retrenchments and to give to the other Boards or Societies much needed assurance of our hearty support of their present forward looking programs. We venture to make the following suggestions concerning the carrying out of this program:

(1) That the fund shall be considered within the apportionment of the state.

(2) That as to time and method the appeal shall be conducted so as not to interfere with or in any way embarrass the Every Member Canvass.

(3) That the appeal shall not be continued beyond September 1, 1926.

(4) That the appeal be directed solely to individuals, groups of individuals and to such churches as may volunteer or heartily accept such an opportunity and that the appeal so far as possible be made under the project method and specific objects.

(5) That the appeal shall be conducted by the Laymen's Advisory Committee in co-operation with the Boards con-

cerned and with State Superintendents in states where such Superintendents exist.

It is the judgment of your Committee that in case this recommendation is approved by the National Council and this proposal carried out that it would be unnecessary for the Prudential Committee of the American Board to make the serious cuts proposed in the appropriations for their missions for the year 1926 and that our Home Boards would be heartened to face their problems and programs with new courage and with renewed assurance of triumphant victory. 1925, pp. 54, 55.

V. Consolidation

(See also Periodicals.)

In view of the existing number of organizations for benevolence that claim contributions from our churches, some of which organizations are so closely affiliated in purpose and method that they contemplate the same work, therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of seven be appointed to consider and report, at the next session of this Council, whether any consolidation of such organizations is practicable, with a view to the promotion of greater unity and efficiency of operation, and the reduction of expenses that are felt to be needless and therefore burdensome.

Resolved, That this committee be requested, when desired to do so, to investigate the merits of such special objects and institutions as are to be generally presented to the churches for aid, and give the churches the advantage of their judgment on their merits and importance. 1871, p. 46.

Resolved, That the Council heartily approves of the consolidation already effected between the American Education Society and the College Society, and commends the new organization to the generous support of the churches. 1874, p. 23.

Resolved, That, for the ordinary home missionary work, the American Home Missionary Society is deserving of vigorous support; and that, in the judgment of this Council, it is desirable that it so far enlarge its operations as to comprehend and supervise all that work of the churches which is properly related to the idea and plan of home evangelization in the special field which it occupies; that the now separate enterprises of church erection and missionary Sunday School work be incorporated with the work of the American Home Missionary Society, and be provided for by the establishment of distinct bureaus, or otherwise all that work of the churches which is properly related to separate annual collections be taken for the special work of church building and missionary Sunday Schools. 1874, p. 26.

Resolved, That, while the desirableness of the consolidation of some parts of the benevolent agencies of the churches is commended to the consideration of the societies concerned, yet this Council in the meantime declares that the several societies heretofore commended, namely, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, the American Home Missionary Society, the American Missionary Association, the American Education Society (now united and known as the American College and Education Society), the American Congregational Union, and the Congregational Publishing Society, in their benevolent work have deserved the confidence of the churches by their faithfulness and success, and are all again commended as channels of benevolence in their respective works, and that no proposal of union necessarily in the future should in the intermediate time lessen the contributions to the various objects. 1874, p. 31; 1880, p. 28; 1883, p. 26; 1895, pp. 25, 200.

Resolved, That a committee of nine, to be composed of men known to be in active sympathy with our various benevolent societies, but not identified with the administration of any of them, be appointed to consider the relations of our benevolent societies to each other, and to see whether there cannot be some readjustment of the work of these societies in the home field so as to bring about more unity and economy of labor, and to use their best endeavors in conjunction with the officers of these societies to secure this readjustment as speedily as possible, if, after careful examination of the whole question, it shall seem best to do so. 1889, p. 32.

Relation to each other. Report on 1892, p. 102.

Resolved, That we recommend to the officers of the various benevolent societies, that they consolidate their anniversaries in what is known as the Council plan: holding but two each year—one in the East and the other in the West, alternately; also, that the dividing line be between the foreign work, as represented by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions and the American Missionary Association on the one hand, and the remaining four on the other hand. 1898, p. 28.

Memorials from several states on closer federation of societies referred to special committee. 1901, p. 26.

Whereas, For more than fifteen years the question of the best adjustment of our missionary societies to one another and to their great work has been constantly before our churches for discussion, and

Whereas, It is most evident that some modification of our present system is almost universally desired, and

Whereas, There is an imperative need that our missionary societies shall have the confidence of all our churches so that they shall receive a more generous support,

Resolved (6), That we approve of so much of the report of the committee of nine as recommends the appointment of all salaried officers in our six societies by executive boards; of the plan, so far as practicable, of one administrative head; and of a limited representative governing membership for each of our home societies.

Resolved (7), That we would urge the five home societies to try the experiment of a united annual meeting, allowing the meeting of the American Board to remain unchanged for the present. Having two annual meetings each year, one in the East and one in the West, will be one step towards a closer federation of all our missionary work.

On memorial from Iowa (p. 446) and kindred petitions. 1904, p. 543.

We recommend that the whole question be referred to a special committee of five, which shall confer with the officers of all the Societies and also with those who desire some change in the organization of our benevolent work, and having secured competent legal advice, shall bring in a report at the next meeting of the National Council. 1904, p. 544.

It was voted ''That in the judgment of this Council the combined meetings have been a great success.'' 1907, p. 421.

Report of the Commission on Missions on the action of the Benevolent Societies conforming to the action of the National Council on the report of the Commission of Nineteen.

At the request of the Commission the different Boards have filed with its Secretary statements as to action taken to conform to the request of the Council regarding voting membership as contained in the Council Minutes of 1913. These may be summarized as follows: The American Board, the American Missionary Association, the Congregational Home Missionary Society, and the Congregational Church Building Society have made the necessary changes in their constitutions. The Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society at its meeting in 1914 gave the required notice of changes and will act upon the same at the annual meeting to be held in connection with this Council, At the annual meeting of the Congregational Education Society in June, 1915, resolutions embodying the needful changes were introduced but action was not completed. The Woman's Home Missionary Federation has expressed its desire to co-operate in the Council's plans and each of the Woman's Foreign Boards has adopted the following resolution:

"This Board hereby expresses its approval of the new attitude of responsibility toward the foreign work of the churches on the part of the National Council, and places on record its desire to co-operate heartily with the American Board and the Council for greater effectiveness in the extension of Christ's Kingdom abroad." 1915, p. 268.

Report of the Commission on Missions concerning the readjustment of Missionary Agencies. 1915, pp. 269-272.

In addition to the general duties assigned to the Commission on Missions by the National Council, at Kansas City, October, 1913, the specific problem which this report seeks to meet was committed to it for study and recommendation in the following item of instruction: "In view of the evident conviction of a large portion of the churches that the multiplicity of the Congregational Home Societies is not consistent with the greatest economy and efficiency, the Commission on Missions shall examine present conditions and shall recommend to the National Council such simplification or consolidation as shall seem expedient." 1915, p. 269.

There has come to be a very widespread conviction throughout our churches that there should be some simplification of the organization of our home mission agencies.

The fundamental consideration justifying the attempt to bring these agencies into closer alignment is that there may be common policies and common control where there is closely related work to be done. This at once suggests bringing together under one administration the societies engaged in Home Mission, Church Building, and Sunday School Extension work. In like way it suggests the co-ordinating, under a single administration, of the various efforts of the denomination to educate its membership concerning fundamental Christian truths and duties, to enlist them in the special problems and responsibilities of its own work, and to train its young people for leadership in the service of the Kingdom of God.

The plan of readjustment provided the following realignments in addition to details:

Missionary church work of the American Missionary Association among white people to be transferred to the Home Missionary Society, details to be worked out by the two societies in conference with the Commission.

Merger of the Home Missionary Society, Church Building Society and the Sunday School extension work of the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society under a group to be popularly known as the Church Extension Boards. Further report to be made to the next Council where necessary.

Merger of the Congregational Education Society and the Congregational Publishing Society, including the religious educational work of the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society. The total field of operation of this group to embrace (a) Sunday School education, (b) general religious education, (c) social service, (d) education of missions, (e) editing, manufacturing and marketing literature, (f) student welfare (g) college aid. The Religious Education Boards, as in the case of the Extension Boards, to have the following officers in common: Board of Directors, President, Vice-President, Treasurer and General Secretary.

Report of the Commission on Missions regarding readjustment. 1917, pp. 138-145, in part as follows:

Extended consideration has of necessity been given to matters growing out of the action of the Council concerning the readjustment of the structure and functions of the Mission Boards. It is assumed that a detailed account of steps taken is not desired and there is, therefore, submitted the following analysis of the existing situation:

1. The Congregational Home Missionary Society and the Congregational Church Building Society have entered into affiliation under the same Executive Committee and General Secretary. Some minor steps of a technical nature still needed to meet the Council's instructions will be taken at this meeting.

2. The Sunday School and Publishing Society deeming action on its part looking toward the creation of a Sunday School Society in New York inadvisable in view of legal considerations has made the Executive Committee of the Congregational Home Missionary Society and the Congregational Church Building Society its sub-committee on mission extension work and Secretary Burton its representative in that field. It has thus secured in essence the end sought by the Council's action. Recommendations as to steps still required will be found later in this report.

3. The field force in religious education consisting of the Social Service Secretary and six of the staff of the C. S. S. & P. S. (the remainder being connected with the department of Sunday School mission work) are now related to the allied Boards in Boston in the manner contemplated by the Council except that financial considerations have made it impossible to put the entire force on the staff of the Education Society.

This is mainly a technical matter so far as administrative efficiency is concerned and can be readily changed when conditions permit.

Other transfers of work have been effected as planned, the Home Missionary Society taking over the churches among Southern Highlanders from the American Missionary Association, the Education Society taking the Schauffler School and the Chicago Institutes from the Home Missionary Society and Atlanta Seminary from the American Missionary Association, while the American Missionary Association has taken the schools among Mexicans and Mormons from the Congregational Education Society.

In the changes thus far made no subsidies from one society to another have been necessary except that the Education Society has paid the American Missionary Association $16,000 for the year ending October 1, 1917. Further financial adjustments will need to be effected but it is believed they will not present grave difficulties.

It is a matter for hearty gratitude that these changes have been brought about with so large a measure of unanimity of judgment and with such substantial harmony of spirit. Not less noteworthy and gratifying is the fact that though the process of making these readjustments has extended over a series of years and has of necessity made a large claim upon the time and thought of missionary leaders, there has been no slackening of effort in any department and for most of the organizations concerned some increase of income.

These and other favorable features of the situation confirm the Commission in its belief that the plan of readjustment adopted in 1915 is projected upon right lines. It has printed in a leaflet called ''An Adequate National Missionary Organization'' an analysis of the aims sought in the present organization and of the reasons for the adoption of its various features. This will be sent on request. 1917, pp. 138, 139.

Voted: That the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society be requested to take the necessary steps to change its name to the Congregational Publishing Society, or with the consent of the Commission on Missions, The Pilgrim Press, and that as soon as this shall be accomplished the Board of Directors of the Congregational Home Missionary Society be requested to organize and incorporate a society to be known as the Congregational Sunday School Extension Society, the same to exist for the purpose and to be controlled in the manner described in the report of this Commission in 1915.

Voted: That to the Sunday School Extension Society thus organized there be committed the care of Sunday School extension work on behalf of the denomination. This Society shall also work in co-operative relations with the Religious Education Boards as outlined in the body of the report herewith submitted. Briefly summarized, this means the assignment to the educational force of full responsibility of leadership in all that has to do with the educational methods and evangelistic outreach of the local Sunday Schools, while to the extension force is assigned the planting of mission Sunday Schools and a continuous effort to carry out the plans of the educational force along such lines as that force may select. 1917, p. 51.

Voted: That the churches be asked to send contributions hitherto made for support of the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society of Boston to the Society to be organized in New York.

Voted: That the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society in conference with the Commission on Missions arrange for using the income of invested funds and of legacies which may be received during the biennium in accordance with the desire of the donor or the nature of the trust for Sunday School Education or Sunday School Extension, as the case may be.

Voted: That the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society be requested at its discretion to apply to the courts for permission to transfer funds thus held to organizations which will hold the same and expend the income as demanded by the trust.

Voted: That the Commission on Missions be instructed in conference with the two organizations concerned to arrange such financial adjustments during the biennium as shall duly care for all interests involved. 1917, p. 57.

Report of the Commission on Missions indicating a satisfactory working out of readjustment plans. 1919, pp. 140, 141.

VI. The Committee of Twelve

Report of. 1925, pp. 56-70; 1927, pp. 42-46, modified, pp. 197-200, 202, 203, 204, 205, 207, 208.

(The extended modifications made on the basis of the report of the Committee of Twelve may be summarized in their important features as follows: Foreign Missionary work combined under the American Board, with a Prudential Committee of 39, one-third being women, with women on the executive staff and with joint agencies working with the Home Board through the Commission on Missions, the Promotional Council, Regional Committees, etc. Home missionary and educational work to be unified without changes in incorporation under an identical board of directors of 39 members, one-third being women, and involving all the Homeland Societies. The work of the Woman's Home Missionary Federation to be assumed by the Promotional Council and Regional Committees of the Commission on Missions; provision being made for four administrative committees of fifteen members each for detailed administration of (1) church extension, (2) religious education and publication, (3) American Missionary Association, (4) Ministerial Boards. The Foundation for Education to become a department of the Education Society; the Commission on Missions to consist of the 36 elected members of the Prudential Committee of the American Board, the 36 elected members of the Home Board, the Moderator and Secretary of the National Council, and nine members-at-large elected by the Council, one-third of the elected members being women. The Commission, in addition to its advisory functions, to be the promotional agent of all the boards and to be elected by each society as its promotional committee. The Promotional Secretary of the Commission also to be elected the Promotional Secretary of each society.)

At this point the adjourned meetings of the Church Extension Boards, the American Missionary Association, the Education Society, the Publishing Society and the American Board were called and the following action was taken by each:

Voted: To concur in the action of the National Council in its adoption of the budget for the Commission on Missions and in any other actions of the Council affecting the work of this Society. 1925, p. 45.

(A question regarding the legality of the adjourned meeting of the American Board having been raised, similar action was taken by the American Board at a regularly called adjourned meeting in March, 1926.)

Report of the Commission on Missions on the progress of reorganization. 1927, pp. 38 and 39, including the following:

The Commission appointed a sub-committee to make a study and report to the best of its ability what the savings appear to be. That committee reports apparent savings based on printed reports of $100,826.93, including the estimated savings on the merger of the periodicals, as per working agreement with the Publishing Society. Of the total, $60,803.54 accrues to the American Board and $40,023.39 to the Home Board. 1929, p. 31.

(See also Systematic Benevolence.)

Bible, The

That we honor the wisdom as well as the piety of our Puritan fathers in ordering the daily use of the Bible in the schools established for the education of the people.

That we regret any departure from this time-hallowed usage as destroying the life-giving power of education, which has no true basis but in those great principles of human brotherhood and equality taught alone in the holy Scriptures. That . . . we pledge ourselves to maintain the right of the Word of God in the school as in the sanctuary, and to resist steadfastly any and every encroachment on that wise provision of our fathers which carried the Bible into the daily education of the people. 1865, p. 237.

1. Whatever system of schools is adopted by the state, there is a necessity, and a duty, of teaching moral duties.

2. In the practical teaching of such duties, ethics cannot be altogether dissociated from religion. This truth can hardly be too strongly emphasized.

3. We cannot consent to a division of the school funds among various sects; the results would be disastrous.

4. We cannot abandon our public school system on account of the difficulties with infidels or with Roman Catholics. Such a calamity is not called for by any just spirit of concession to conscience. Good sense will dictate what concessions may be called for in specific circumstances. The use of the Douay version by Roman Catholic pupils or schools, or of a volume of selections from the Scriptures which should contain nothing obscure in meaning, or archaic in style, or open to sectarian construction, or some other possible adjustment—conceived in the spirit of Dr. Woolsey's suggestions—of the difficulties raised by Roman Catholic parents, should meet the approbation of reasonable men. But we are convinced that the safety of society requires that, in our schools, moral duties, the morality which is taught in the Scriptures, and which is rooted in loyalty to God, should be impressed upon the pupils. It should be remembered that in these schools the great mass of our people receive all their education. If they are to be trained to honesty, to respect for the rights of property, to contented and intelligent industry, to all those virtues which are the prime condition of order, and peace, and prosperity, they should be imbued in these schools with those deep and searching moral principles which are set forth nowhere else so forcibly as in the Christian Scriptures.

As a historical fact it has been, from the beginning, the aim and the desire of the American people to have their schools pervaded with the spirit of Christian morality. It should be regarded as the duty of all Christian pastors and teachers to endeavor to keep the public mind so educated that this spirit shall be perpetuated in the schools. We earnestly urge all our churches to strive, by all proper means, so to enlighten and instruct the communities in which they do their Christian work as to prevent, if possible, the demand for the entire exclusion of the Bible from our public schools. 1877, p. 24. Paper on subject, p. 126.

2. That the National Council of Congregational Churches approves of the plan of the American Bible Society in setting apart the last Sunday in November as universal "Bible Sunday" for the purpose of promoting a deeper personal interest

in the Word of God; and that all the churches be requested to take part as far as may be practicable in the observance of "Bible Sunday" at or near the Thanksgiving season. 1919, p. 25.

Bible Readers' School

(The Schauffler Training School.)

Resolved, That as a National Council we heartily indorse the Bible Readers' School in Cleveland, Ohio, whereby young women of different nationalities can be qualified to become effective helpers of our pastors and churches in the important work among the neglected people of our cities, of both native and foreign birth; and we recommend that similar schools be established, if practicable, in other cities. 1889, p. 46.

Report of Commission on the Bible Cause. 1915, p. 367.

Boston Seaman's Friend Society

Voted: That the National Council of Congregational Churches, in session at Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 21-29, 1919, most heartily endorses the work which our New England Congregational Churches have maintained for many years for seamen through the Boston Seaman's Friend Society, and urges the churches of our order so to increase their gifts to this sole Congregational agency for merchant sailors and Navy men as to enable that Society adequately to meet the increased moral and financial responsibilities which the war has brought, and also to make it possible to extend the Society's effort to other needy points. 1919, p. 49.

Voted: That it is the sense of this Council that the important work being done by the Boston Seaman's Friend Society, a Congregational agency of ninety-three years standing, is deserving of the moral and financial support of the churches of our order. The activity being one for a migratory group of men—a distinctively home missionary effort—it is hereby recommended that the work of the Boston Seaman's Friend Society be referred to the National Home Missionary Society to determine its place in the denomination's plan of benevolence and to make such provision for its support as shall be deemed necessary by the National Society. 1921, p. 386.

Boy Scouts of America

1. In view of the availability and value of the program of the Boy Scouts of America for the development of character and training for citizenship in boys, and in view of the special service which it may render to the Church in the religious training of its boyhood, the National Council of the Congregational

Churches commends this program to the churches of our order as offering a means of supplementing the work of other educational agencies in training our boys for service; and it further recommends that the Education Society be requested to give guidance to our churches in their effort to utilize the Boy Scout program. 1919, p. 25.

Brotherhood, Congregational

It was *voted,* that a committee of fifteen on Congregational Brotherhood be appointed, to report at a later session of the Council.

The report was as follows:

Your committee of Fifteen, appointed on Friday last to consider the New Congregational Brotherhood Movement, has had presented to it a memorial from the Young Men's Congregational Union of Chicago, petitioning the National Council to give impetus to a National Brotherhood. This petition has been endorsed by Missouri, Illinois, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Michigan, Rhode Island, and the Congregational Club of California.

Your committee, therefore, presents the following:

Resolved, I. That the Council give its approval and encouragement to the movement looking to the formation of a Congregational Brotherhood.

II. That it appoint a committee of twenty-nine on Congregational Brotherhood to represent various sections of the country, with power to act. 1907, pp. 415, 416, 417.

Resolution adopted. 1907, p. 420.

The following was adopted:

Resolved, That the Brotherhood, having been organized under the direction of the National Council, be recognized as a department of the National Council, and that the Council appoint a committee on Brotherhood at each session of the Council, to assist in directing the work of the Brotherhood, consisting of the moderator, the secretary, and three other men. 1910, p. 395.

Commission on Brotherhood, discontinued. 1913, 396. (Work under Social Service. 1913, p. 396.

Burton, Charles Emerson

(See Secretary.)

At 5:00 o'clock the special order for the election of Secretary being taken up:

It was voted that a two-thirds vote of those present and voting be necessary for a choice.

On ballot Rev. Chas. E. Burton received 226 of the 331 votes cast and on motion of Rev. Carl S. Patton, the election was made unanimous. 1921, p. 379.

By-Laws

(See Constitution and By-Laws.)

Capital and Labor

(See also Industrial Committee and Social Service.)

The committee on capital and labor presented a report in the form of an address by Rev. Washington Gladden, of Ohio, which was accepted. 1895, pp. 43, 146.

In response to a request from the Massachusetts Labor Committee, it was *voted,* that a committee on labor be appointed. 1901, p. 3.

Report of committee, p. 414. Bibliography, p. 421.

It was *voted,* That the name of the committee on labor be changed to industrial committee.

It was *voted,* That the recommendations of the committee on labor be adopted. They are as follows:—

Whereas, The industrial problem has been given fitting place on the program of this Council, and deep interest therein shown by the public response to the sectional meetings provided, and,

Whereas, The local Trades and Labor Assembly courteously invited the members of this Council to its meeting on Sunday afternoon last, and provided a rare occasion in inviting Professor Graham Taylor to address it, and also in giving free opportunity for question and conference,

Resolved (1), That Professor Taylor be requested to furnish his address to the committee on publication for incorporation in our minutes.

Resolved (2), That this Council thank the local Trades and Labor Assembly for its courtesy, and recognizes in this mutual interchange of opinion and purpose, and in the formal proceedings of these meetings, evidence of the existence of a social, religious spirit prophetic of a better day both for labor and the church. 1904, p. 115.

The National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States, recognizing that the present industrial situation in our country has come to a deadlock, fraught with danger to all the interests we hold in common, desires to put on record the following resolutions:

1. That no solution can be obtained apart from the application of unbiased justice by and to all classes, and a spirit of service in fact as well as in name.

2. That it recognizes that the heart of the struggle of Labor is not for higher wages and shorter hours alone, but has as its objective the attainment of a new status which must not only be conceded to it but universally acknowledged if industrial democracy is to be established.

3. That it recognizes that the principle of organized representation of the interests of labor is the just counterpart of the corporate interests of Capital.

4. That while we recognize the right of the individual wage earner to contract with his employer if he so prefers, we believe that the general interest of the wage earners is best promoted by collective bargaining.

5. That, specifically, we acknowledge the right of wage earners to organize without discrimination, to bargain collectively, to be represented by representatives of their own choosing in negotiations and adjustments with employers in respect to wages, hours of labor and relations and conditions of employment.

6. That the Council recognizes that there are three methods of collective bargaining; first, by the Craft Union method in which the workers are organized in great national organizations like the American Federation of Labor; second, by the organization of the employees by industries, like the plan of the International Harvester Company; third, by the group method in which the great body of unorganized workers express themselves collectively. The Council recognizes and holds that Capital should recognize in all three the expression of labor's solidarity, and its right to determine by which method it will work out its relation to Capital.

7. That Labor on the basis of these conceded rights must, by a process of self-discipline, address itself to the acceptance of larger obligations and responsibilities for carrying through to successful issue the processes of industry, particularly insisting on the imperative obligation to fulfill contracts and to obey the laws of the land.

8. That the industrial democracy toward which we are striving requires on the part of all the classes involved and on the part of the general public, unflinching insistence upon freedom of speech and assembly—so long as the use of this freedom is without disloyalty to the republic—openness of mind, a stern self-discipline resulting in a church, a government, and an in-

dustrial order that shall in very truth serve the common good of all.

9. The rights of the public are a paramount consideration in all disputes between Capital and Labor and neither Capital nor Labor should permanently sacrifice these for any selfish ends.

10. The Council believes that the recognition of the right to self determination on the part of Labor and Capital is preliminary to, and useless without, an effective co-operation in common duties which will reveal that industry is, in its essential nature, a public service to which these parties contribute. And the Council earnestly recommends further and frequent industrial conferences whose ultimate aim shall be to establish the community of all classes in the common enterprise of industry, as it gratefully commends all men representing Capital or Labor or the public, who, by their attitude and efforts, are seeking to establish that co-operative commonwealth which is an essential part of the Kingdom of God. 1919, pp. 45-47.

Carter, Charles F.

In view of the retirement of Rev. Charles F. Carter, D. D., Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Council after twelve years of service, we desire to express our appreciation of his wise and brotherly leadership and the signal contributions which he has made to the achievements of this constructive period in the life of our fellowship. 1925, p. 46.

Census of Religious Bodies

Recognizing the value to the churches of the United States of the reports of religious bodies, statistical and descriptive, issued by the Bureau of the Census, the National Council of Congregational Churches now in session desires to express its gratification that another Census of Religious Bodies is to be taken during the year 1916, and to assure the Director of Census that the churches here represented as well as the officers of this Council, stand ready to assist the Bureau of the Census in all practicable ways in the work of taking the Census. 1915, pp. 48, 49.

Charter

Act of Incorporation adopted. 1886, p. 18.

Concerning the first meeting of the trustees of the National Council. 1886, p. 378. (See Trustees.)

Change in the charter (See Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief) constituted the trustees of the National Council the Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief. 1907, p. 408.

(For charter and by-laws see 1907, pp. 377-381.)
(See also Corporation for the National Council.)

Charities and Correction, Report on, 1907, p. 244.

Chautauqua House

Voted: That the National Council hears with pleasure of the proposed enlargement of the Congregational House at Chautauqua, N. Y., for the purpose of furnishing free accommodation to our home and foreign missionaries during the Assembly season and summer vacations, and cordially commends the enterprise to our Congregational constituents. 1913, p. 405.

Children and the Church

Paper and report on "Relation of Children to the Church." 1883, pp. 12, 15. Report on, p. 164.

Resolved (1), That the Council hereby commends anew to the attention of the ministers and the churches the large and hopeful field of Christian effort offered to them in the young life of their congregations, and asks them to consider whether it ought not to be made more positively than heretofore our settled aim and recognized custom to draw within the fold of the church and under her tender and watchful care the children in whom may be discovered the moving of the Spirit's renewing power and the first dawnings of a new life.

Resolved (2), That we count it the duty of all who love our Lord Jesus Christ and their privilege to use every practicable method of awakening in children the consciousness that the Saviour is calling them to himself, and to train them from their earliest years with the aim and expectation of enlisting their tender hearts in the love and service of their Redeemer; also, to this end, that all fathers and mothers should use the mighty power of parental love, that Sunday School teachers should affectionately and definitely point and lead the little ones to Christ, and that pastors should from time to time recognize the children in the public services of the sanctuary, and make full use of such methods of private and social influence as the experience of any of the churches in these days has suggested, or as yearning, loving Christian sympathy can invent. 1883, p. 30.

China and the Chinese

(See also Opium Traffic.)

Whereas, Outrages, destructive of both property and life, as yet unredressed, have been perpetrated upon the Chinese living among us; and *whereas,* the just claims of our government in similar cases of outrage have always been paid by the Chinese, who are now again called upon to indemnify American citizens for property recently destroyed in China; and *whereas*, the suggestion that, if the Chinese claims are allowed at all, it should be as an act of benevolence and not of justice, is a crying disgrace to our Christian civilization, destructive of harmonious relations between the two nations, and detrimental to American commerce, as well as to missionary operations; therefore,

Resolved (1), That this Council, representing the Congregational churches of the United States, urge upon Congress the duty of making immediate payment of all well-authenticated claims presented by the Chinese, and of making such pecuniary reparation for loss of life as may seem just.

Resolved (2), That it is the duty of Congress to take measures for the punishment of those who have committed outrages upon the Chinese, and to take such other action as may seem desirable to render the lives and property of the Chinese as secure as are the lives and property of any other persons.

Resolved (3), That the provisional committee of the Council be instructed to bring these resolutions to the notice of Congress at an early day, in such way as to it shall seem best. 1886, p. 49.

CHINESE EXCLUSION

Whereas, During the recent Boxer trouble large numbers of Christian Chinese risked their lives for the sake of insuring the safety of the American legation and the American citizens, and

Whereas, The carrying out of the Chinese Exclusion Act subjects Chinamen in this country to hardships and injustice which immigrants from no other nation are called upon to bear, thereby tending to nullify the influence of our humane foreign policy in the Orient, and giving a false conception of the nature of American institutions at a time when these institutions are being studied as never before,

Therefore, be it *resolved:*—

(1) That we declare our belief that the attitude of the Chinese government toward our countrymen in China and the industry and sobriety of Chinamen in this country do not warrant any distinction being made between immigrants from China and those from any other foreign country.

(2) That we appeal to Congress, in enacting a new law to take the place of the present Exclusion Act, to be governed by the spirit of justice to all men, freely welcoming to our shores and institutions all travelers, students, and merchants, and providing for a just and kindly administration of the laws regulating the immigration of laborers.

(3) That a committee of five appointed to bring these resolutions to the attention of the President and of Congress, and with power to take such other steps as may seem to them wise to secure the ends in view.

It was *voted,* That the following be a committee of five to bring the attention of Congress and the President to these resolutions on Chinese exclusion: Rev. Washington Gladden, Ohio; William Ives Washburn, New York; Rev. William H. Holman, Connecticut; Rev. John Knox McLean, California; William H. Wanamaker, Pennsylvania, with power to fill vacancies. 1904, p. 559.

CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES

The Congregational Churches of America through their National Council assembled in the city of Washington, D. C., adopted the following resolutions:

Whereas, In accordance with the cherished ideals of American independence and democracy and in consequence of our deeply rooted conviction of the duty of brotherly relations between men of all nations, we are in full sympathy with the desire of the people of China to be masters of their own destiny;

Therefore be it

Resolved, That through the State Department we urge and petition the American Representatives in the International Conference now in session in Peking for the purpose of discussing Treaty revision to stand for such revision as shall recognize the absolute sovereignty of China.

Resolved, That we as members both of this Council and of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions do disclaim all special privileges accorded our missionaries and their work by existing treaties.

Resolved, That we are in favor of the abolition of extraterritoriality in China at an early date the determination of which shall be subject to the mutual consideration of China and the Government of the United States of America, even if other Powers find themselves unable to make readjustments in treaty relations at the same date.

Resolved, That we favor and urge such mutual consideration of these vexed problems as will assure that the revision of existing treaties shall be undertaken co-operatively on terms of equality by China and the United States of America. 1925, p. 48.

Whereas, The present situation in China seems to us to be of great importance for the future of Christianity, and

Whereas, Our chief concern is not for the future of missions as such but for the welfare of the Christian Churches of China, and

Whereas, Our relation to the Chinese people is one of long standing good will which we both as American citizens and as members of the Christian fellowship wish to be continued and strengthened, therefore be it

Resolved, That the National Council of Congregational Churches reaffirm its confidence in the traditional American policy in China, to-wit: independent action, non-intervention, and constructive friendliness; and that we hereby express our strong approval of the patience and sympathy shown in the private as well as the official attitude of the President and the Department of State; and be it further

Resolved, That we commend to the further study of the American Board and its Prudential Committee the whole problem of indemnities in connection with the missionary program, looking to the formulation of a policy which shall be in full agreement with the principles which we profess and which shall furthermore be a clear evidence to Chinese as well as American Christians of our ideals for international adjustments in the Spirit of Christ; and be it further

Resolved, That we publicly and definitely affirm our unalterable opposition to military intervention in China and to the use of force in promoting business or protecting missionary work, and at the same time reaffirm our faith in conference and arbitration as a method of settling all international questions our belief in the inherent right of China's patriotic citizens to determine for themselves the future of their country, and our strong desire that America should immediately take the initiative in moving toward new treaties by inviting China to appoint delegates to enter upon negotiations with American delegates appointed for this purpose, and finally, be it

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by our General Secretary to the President of the United States, the State Department at Washington, the China National Christian Council, and the Officials of the Congregational Churches in China.

The resolutions were adopted separately and it was

Voted: That the report of the Committee as a whole be adopted.

Voted, That the Committee on Resolutions be instructed to print these resolutions forthwith. 1927, pp. 223, 224.

CHINA: EXTRATERRITORIALITY

"*Whereas* China is now united as a country under the Nationalist Government, and the American Government has already taken the lead among the nations of the world in granting China full tariff autonomy and in other negotiations in such a way as to promote mutual good will; and

"*Whereas* the Government of China has now formally requested the initiation of negotiations between the United States and China with a view to the revision of the existing treaty which provides for extra territorial jurisdiction and a special status for missionary work and Christian Churches, a step for which this Council has repeatedly expressed its strong desire, therefore be it

"*Resolved,* That the National Council of Congregational Churches express to the Government of the United States its appreciation of the spirit in which the negotiations of the past two years have been conducted and of the cordial relations between the two countries thereby promoted; and

"*Resolved,* That we reaffirm our strong desire that the complete and full sovereignty of China be recognized and express our earnest hope that the Government of the United States will appoint at once its plenipotentiaries to revise the existing treaty on this basis; and be it further

"*Resolved,* That the Secretary of this Council be and hereby is instructed to present copies of these resolutions to the President and the State Department of the United States in Washington, to the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, to the China National Christian Council." 1929, pp. 222, 223.

THE FAMINE IN CHINA

That the efforts of the China Famine Relief Committee—205 East Forty-fifth Street, New York City—shared in by our own American Board Missionaries on the field—be commended to our Churches as worthy of their serious concern. (Unanimous vote.) 1929, p. 228.

Church Extension

First. We record with profound gratitude our sense of God's great and seasonable mercy in raising up for our times and for our country, the American Home Missionary Society; we rejoice in the honor he has put on this agency in giving it the affectionate favor of our churches, and in blessing it for these fifty years with an evangelizing efficiency which has for its imperishable memorial, state beyond state, from the sea to the river, and from the river to the ends of our earth, planted under its auspices with Christian institutions; and in the name of all our churches, both those which are aided and those which are aiding in this service, we bear grateful testimony to the eminent fidelity and discretion which have so generally characterized its administration.

Second. While we rejoice in the abundant fruits of our home missionary work, and admire the liberal blessing that has crowned our labors in this direction, we are humbled by the conviction that we have but found our work, not done it; that we have only touched the skirts of our enterprise in its breadth and vital relations; and that it is now imperatively demanded of the whole fraternity of churches united in this Council; by the very growth which God has thus given them, and is ready more abundantly to give; by the expanding field that appeals to us by its destitution; by every claim of Christian patriotism; and by their allegiance to Christ and his redeeming purpose in all the world, that they awake now to the greatness of our evangelizing work, and give it without delay that full measure of zeal and liberality which shall equal the urgency of the demand.

Third. Instructed by our work itself, as it passes from one stage to another, we discern the necessity of greater flexibility in our method and measures; and we recommend:—

1. That a state organization be formed in every state, upon which shall be devolved the development and direction of the work in its own field to the extent of the funds it may raise.

2. That the secretaries avail themselves to the utmost of whatever wisdom to direct can be gathered from those closest to the work.

3. That the policy and practice on which the society has proceeded of invading unevangelized fields and sending its missionaries into the regions beyond, and among all, of whatever nationality, open to our approach, be largely pursued; and,

4. That the obligation be still more urgently pressed on the aided churches, both in the older states and in the new, to cease from their dependence as early as possible for the sake of those famishing in utter want.

Fourth. We recommend that a committee of five be appointed by this Council to confer with the Executive Committee of the Home Missionary Society, and arrange with them a plan on which the state organizations can co-operate in efficient harmony with the parent society for the common end; and that this committee take action in season for the plan proposed to be in readiness for the several state associations, conferences, or conventions at their next annual meetings.

Fifth. For the compassing of the vast evangelizing work now devolved upon us, we urge upon our churches that at once *not less than half a million annually* be devoted to our home missionary enterprise. 1871, p. 51.

Voted, That the Council, while recognizing the fact that good work in the line of church extension is being done in many states, believes that in every state this important matter should receive systematic and constant attention.

We therefore recommend that in every state where no definite plan of church extension is now in operation the general conference or general association of such state adopt such plan and take measures to make it effective. 1901, p. 44.

Whereas, It is proved that the agency of the local Congregational City Missionary Society, incorporated and having its board of trustees, is the best intermediary between the American Home Missionary Society, or the American Congregational Union, and the field, and is most likely to devise wisely in the selection of places for religious work and worship, this Council earnestly and urgently commends the formation of these local missionary societies in all cities where they do not exist. See Bible Readers' School. 1889, p. 47.

Report on Church Extension in cities. 1907, pp. 258, 421; 1910, p. 249.

It was *voted,* that a committee of five on City Church Extension Societies be appointed, of which the president and secretary of the Congregational City Federation shall be members. This committee shall further the organization of local societies for church extension, assist as far as possible the efficiency of such societies as are already in operation, and report at the next triennial council.

It was *voted:* That the Commission on Missions be asked to consider, with power to act, certain plans which the Church Building Society and the Home Missionary Society desire to submit with reference to the securing of special funds for initiating church work in cities. The commission, however, is explicitly instructed to approve no plan which in its judgment is likely to interfere with the successful prosecution of the Apportionment Plan. 1913, p. 404.

Church Extension Boards

(This is a popular term applied to three Societies under a common Board of Directors and a common Executive Committee, namely, the Congregational Home Missionary Society, the Congregational Church Building Society and the Congregational Church Extension Society, which see, also Benevolent Societies under Consolidation.)

Church History

CHURCH SOCIETIES

Whereas, In several of our states, church history societies have been organized to collect and preserve the local church history;

and *whereas,* we consider this a very important work, we recommend the organization of such societies, so far as practicable, in all our states, which may, if so desired, do their work in connection with each state association; and we also recommend that those state organizations each have a place designated where church histories, manuals, anniversary sermons, and other historical matter may be collected and preserved; and also that, when practicable, copies of such collections be sent to the Congregational Library, Boston, Massachusetts. 1892, p. 37.

Voted: That the Executive Committee be authorized to appoint a Committee on Denominational History. 1925, p. 22.

Recommendation of the Executive Committee, "That the Council appoint a permanent Commission on Denominational History with functions outlined as follows:"

"The annual gathering of the records of current outstanding events in denominational history illustrating the development of denominational life and the doings of prominent churches of the order.

"The bringing of the history of the National Council up to date.

"The preparation of issuing of program for the celebration of such denominational days, for instance, as Forefathers' Day.

"A brief necrology of leaders in the denomination, and in short, the setting of such landmarks from year to year as outstanding happenings in Congregationalism seem to call for.

"A report from it to each session of the Council would appear to be desirable, and finally it should be a continuing commission and not a committee. The power to add to its number and to fill vacancies in its membership may well be given to it, and assuming that it will appoint its own chairman the order of the names as above is merely alphabetical." 1927, p. 17.

Rev. W. E. Barton presented a report of the Committee on Denominational History concurring with the recommendation of the Executive Committee that this committee be a permanent Commission of the Council. The recommendation was adopted. 1927, p. 187.

The Commission on Denominational History reported through its chairman, Dr. Wm. E. Barton, who then conducted the service in memory of ministers who have passed away during the biennium.

The Moderator called upon Bishop Nicholson of the Methodist Episcopal Church who addressed the Council briefly.

At 12:00 o'clock the mid-day devotional period of the Council was conducted by the Council Chaplain, the Rev. Douglas Horton. 1929, p. 207.

Church Loan Fund

(See Congregational Church Building Society.)

Whereas, Our cities have become the centers and sources of many perils; and *whereas,* the supply of Protestant churches for large city populations is only from one-tenth to one-thirtieth part as great as for the whole country; and *whereas,* the work of planting churches is at first far more expensive in the city than elsewhere, and at the same time the soonest productive of results in Christian work and benefaction; therefore,

Resolved (1), That in no way can we better meet the burning questions of municipal, national, and world-wide evangelism than by putting at once not less than $100,000 into the work of establishing churches and chapels in our large cities and other influential centers of population, or in aiding churches in such centers already in the border land of self-support.

Resolved (2), That this Council most earnestly urges upon the attention of persons of means in our churches and congregations the immediate contribution to that object in sums ranging from $100 to $1,000 or more; such subscription not collectible until at least $100,000 is fully realized, to be known as the Church Loan Fund.

Resolved (3), That all moneys raised under the foregoing resolutions be deposited, as paid, with the American Congregational Union, Number 59 Bible House, New York City, as the custodian thereof, thence to be distributed by the trustees of said union, by and with the counsel and advice of a committee of five to be appointed by this Council.

Resolved (4), That the committee provided for in the last preceding resolution be, and is, an executive committee to carry into effect the foregoing resolutions, and to report their proceedings in the premises at the next session of this body. 1886, p. 44. Statement of, p. 195.

It was recommended that this fund be held perpetually in the sole custody of the American Congregational Union, under the designation, The National Council Church Loan Fund, and that the union be asked to report the condition of it to the National Council at each of its sessions hereafter, and that the committee be discharged. 1889, p. 32. Report on, p. 255.

Church and State

Resolved, That the secretary of this Council be instructed to formally present to both houses of Congress and to the President of the United States the petition of this body for the adoption of the following proposed sixteenth amendment of the constitution of the United States:—

''No state shall pass any law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or use its property or credit, or any money raised by taxation, or authorize either to be used for the purpose of founding, maintaining, or aiding, by appropriation, payment for services, expenses, or otherwise, any church, religious denomination, or religious society, or any institution, society, or undertaking which is wholly or in part under sectarian or ecclesiastical control.'' 1892, p. 41.

Civil War

Whereas, The attitude of various religious bodies in Europe towards the United States during the past five years requires a careful discrimination and statement:—

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to prepare a suitable reply from this Council to the delegates from foreign bodies who have been heard before it. 1865, p. 95.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the National Council of Congregational Churches, when assembled, to appoint, early in its session, a special service of devotion for the acknowledgment of the marvelous and merciful dealings of Almighty God with the nation in connection with the war, and for supplicating a gracious dispensation of the Spirit of God upon the land, that our restored national unity may be consecrated in righteousness and in the peace and joy of the Holy Ghost. 1865, pp. 9, 359.

Message to President Johnson

Voted, The National Council of Congregational Churches now in session in this city, representing nearly three thousand churches in all sections of the country, desire to present you their Christian salutations, to assure you of their profound sympathy in your great and trying labors, to promise you their loyal support and their prayers, and to express their solemn conviction that the hundreds of thousands embraced as worshipers in our churches will most heartily co-operate with you in extending the institutions of civil and religious liberty throughout the land. 1865, p. 55.

That a committee be appointed to present in person to President Johnson the resolutions on the state of the country. 1865, pp. 254, 302. Reply, p. 266.

That we extend to the inhabitants of the late revolted states who have been snared into this rebellion through ignorance, surprise, or overbearing violence of public sentiment, or forced by the power of a merciless conscription, our sympathy and commiseration, and our readiness, after a suitable time has elapsed, to welcome them on satisfactory evidence of loyalty to civil fellowship and fraternity under the old flag.

That those who have maintained steadfast loyalty amid general treason and revolt, undaunted by popular rage or despotic violence, braving in the cause of the country the terrors of imprisonment, torture, robbery, and starvation, and of death itself, rank amid the noblest heroes and martyrs of this war, and deserve lasting honor and gratitude.

That the heroic devotion and self-sacrifice of the loyal women of the country during this war will ever be gratefully remembered as having been of vital efficacy to the triumph of our cause, and will excite the admiration of history as examples of moral beauty and sublimity unsurpassed in human story. 1865, p. 259.

(See also Great Britain.)

Clark, Rev. Francis E., D. D.

Greeting upon the completion of forty years of service as founder and leader of the Christian Endeavor Movement. 1921, p. 390.

Resolved, That this Council express its deep sense of the noble life and world-wide service of Rev. Francis E. Clark, founder of the Christian Endeavor Society, and record its thanks to God that the Congregational Church has been privileged to give to the world so distinguished a leader of the young people of two generations. 1927, p. 221.

Colleges

DAY OF PRAYER FOR

It was *resolved,* That, in accordance with the earnest desire of many of our colleges, and the action already taken by some of our state organizations and by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, this Council recommend that hereafter the last Thursday in January be observed as the uniform day of special prayer for colleges and other institutions of learning. 1871, p. 42.

It was *voted,* That a committee of ten be named, to report at the next National Council, to study the whole educational situation as it bears on the colleges most closely connected with the denomination, to put more definitely before the churches the place, the claims, the future, and the relations of the colleges to the kingdom of God, especially of the Central and Western colleges, and to suggest and promote means that may insure that the higher educational work of our churches shall not slacken, but rather grow deeper, broader, and more influential. 1904, p. 551.

The Report of the Committee on Colleges covered the following subjects:

I. What are the Congregational Colleges?

II. What the Denomination has Done and is Doing for These Colleges.

III. What are the Colleges Doing for the Churches?

IV. What Other Denominations Do for Their Colleges.

V. What more can be Done?
1907, pp. 269-282.

COLLEGES AND STATE UNIVERSITIES

The matured conviction of the Congregational churches is that, for the promotion of Christian learning, they cannot rely exclusively upon institutions supported and controlled by the state. Whatever admirable results institutions of this kind may have reached or may yet reach, the results which we deem the best results we do not believe them fully adequate to secure: and their inadequacy is of the necessity of the case. This conviction has guided us in the past to the founding and endowing, in the Eastern, the Central, and Northwestern states, of institutions of higher education, independent of political patronage and control, the services of which, both to liberal learning and to Christ and the church, have endeared them to us, dignified the names they bear, and enhanced the fame of our nation. This conviction may lead us in the future not unduly to multiply such institutions, but more richly to endow and equip them; and in new states, and in states yet to be erected, to found and endow others like them.

But this policy involves us in no antagonism to state institutions as such. So far as they promote popular intelligence and liberal learning, we rejoice in their recognized prosperity and power. So far as those intrusted with the direction of them, or of any of them, strive to keep them in harmony with the best impulses of national life, and make them centers of influence favorable to true Christian culture as Christian citizens, we owe them and we yield them a hearty sympathy. These institutions belong not to the religious public, but to the whole public. It were very undesirable if they ceased to have the support of religious men while legitimately fulfilling their proper functions in the Commonwealth. It were disastrous if, for want of that moral support, they practically passed into the hands of men wholly indifferent or hostile to religion, and therefore ceased to fulfill their proper function in the Commonwealth. That we want for our children something better than these institutions can be in our understanding of the matter does not in the least forestall our sincere desire that, in their place, they may receive the confidence of all good citizens, and in a just measure receive it. That we believe now, as always, the highest aspirations the scholar can feel are those of which religion is the spring, and the grandest results in the direction of liberal learning will be achieved only as men most truly enter into fellowship with Him "in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge," does not in the least hinder our appreciation of all which good men may do, whom convictions or circumstances lead to confide in other aspirations, and to avail themselves of resources applicable to education under the limitations of political control. 1877, p. 25.

Report of the Commission on Religious and Moral Education. 1917, p. 272.

Report of the Commission on Missions on. 1919, p. 148.

Report of College Survey Commission. 1921, pp. 274-320.

Address by Pres. H. C. King. 1915, pp. 133-141.

(See also Congregational Education Society, Education, The Foundation for Education, Foreign Populations, French-American, Whitman College.)

Commission of Nineteen

(First called Commission on Polity.)

That the Council appoint a carefully chosen Commission on Polity, of not less than fifteen members, empowered to give further consideration to the questions of polity on which the Council is not ready to express a decisive judgment; to formulate a consistent and practicable scheme of natural administration; to test its conclusions, if necessary, by a referendum to the churches; and to submit to the next Council a constitution and by-laws which shall express the usages of present-day Congregationalism.

That the Council make provision for the expenses of this Commission. 1910, p. 370.

The Nominating Committee reported the following as the Commission of Fifteen recommended by the Committee on Polity, and they were elected.

President Frank K. Sanders, Kansas; Rev. Henry A. Stimson, New York; President Charles S. Nash, California; Rev. William E. Barton, Illinois; Rev. Oliver Huckel, Maryland; Lucien C. Warner, New York; Rev. Charles S. Mills, Missouri; Rev. Rockwell H. Potter, Connecticut; John M. Whitehead, Wisconsin; Frank Kimball, Illinois; Prof. Williston Walker, Connecticut; Henry H. Beardsley, Missouri; Rev. Henry H. Kelsey, Ohio; Pres. Edward D. Eaton, Wisconsin; William W. Mills, Ohio.

At a subsequent session there were added Samuel B. Capen, Massachusetts; Arthur H. Wellman, Massachusetts; Rev. Nehemiah Boynton, New York; Rev. Raymond Calkins, Maine. 1910, p. 396.

The following action was also taken: Upon motion it was voted that the Commission of Nineteen be and hereby is authorized to select and nominate a general secretary to the Provisional Committee. 1910, p. 389.

The following was adopted:

In view of the possible enlargement of the administrative function of the National Council, and in view of the fact that the work of ministerial relief is the conspicuous experiment in administrative work now being carried on by the National Council,

Voted, That the Commission of Nineteen in the course of its investigations be asked especially to review the work of ministerial relief as to efficiency and economy, and make recommendations at the next regular adjourned or special meeting of the Council. 1910, p. 407.

The report of the Commission of Nineteen was presented to the Council by Rev. Frank K. Sanders, Kansas. Rev. William E. Barton, Illinois, followed in behalf of the sub-committee on the constitution; Rev. Charles S. Nash, California, on the secretaryship; and Prof. Williston Walker, Connecticut, on the missionary societies and their relation to the Council.

It was *voted:* That the general discussion be in the following order: The missionary societies, the secretaryship, other details.

It was *voted:* That all votes taken previous to the final vote be regarded as informal and non-binding.

General discussion followed with various votes, including the approval of the different sections of the report. Some changes were accepted by the Commission and the final form of the report with the enacting resolutions were adopted, and will be found on pages 335-355. [Of Minutes of 1913.]

The Doxology, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," was sung, and prayer was offered by Rev. Albert J. Lyman, New York.

The following resolution was adopted: That the Council presents to the members of the Commission of Nineteen and records upon its minutes its most hearty and sincere thanks for their long and faithful labors; for their uniform open-mindedness and unfailing courtesy; and for the value of the finished product of their labors. 1913, pp. 388, 389.

(For the substance of the report of the Committee of Nineteen, see Benevolent Societies, section on Consolidation.)

Commission on Missions

Furthermore, the work of all the societies shall be placed under the advisory supervision of a "Commission on Missions" chosen by the National Council, a minority being nominated by the societies themselves. By these recommendations all the missionary societies will be brought into direct and similar relations with the churches through the National Council, and will be under the supervision of a single commission of that Council. That commssion can also serve, if the Council so orders, as the Apportionment Commission. From the report of the Commission of Nineteen, 1913, p. 337.

For the constitutional provisions for the Commission on Missions, see By-law XI.

Relation to State Conferences. 1919, p. 43. 1925, p. 63. (See State Organizations.)

To assume the work of the Congregational World Movement. 1921, p. 378. (See Congregational World Movement.)

Voted: The Council hereby authorizes the Commission on Missions to expend, and advises the Societies to appropriate for the work of promoting the Apportionment, Missionary Education, Stewardship and kindred work of the Commission, at the rate of three per cent per annum of the annual apportionment of five million dollars. 1921, p. 392.

Promotional Work of the Commission on Missions. 1923, pp. 202-204.

On motion of the Business Committee through its Chairman, Rev. A. W. Palmer, the report of the Commission on Missions together with resolutions and recommendations received favorable action involving approval of the organization for promotion under the general direction of the Commission but with Executive Committee and Cabinet for practical operation within the budgets approved by the Council and the Societies, also specifically the following statement, definitions, and recommendations:

At the annual meeting of the Commission in January last the Secretary of the Council and of the Commission presented what seemed to him certain inherent incongruities in our present organization for promotion.

In the search for simplification of the organization with resultant economy, efficiency, and democracy in control the Secretary suggested the possibility of following the precedent established in the Extension Boards under which one set of directors constitutes the official board of three corporations. This would mean that in the single sphere of promoting income each of the organizations participating in the apportionment should elect the same persons as their responsible promoting agency.

Secretary Burton estimated that the equivalent of the Commission's budget could thus be saved, and that with material increase in efficiency.

The experience of the two years has shown the need of a clear interpretation of the duties imposed upon the Commission on Missions by the National Council and of more complete organization for carrying them out.

It is the judgment of your Commission that under the constitution of the National Council it is the duty of the Commission on Missions in the field of promotion to initiate and to direct the common appeal of the Congregational Missionary Societies to the Congregational Churches and their members for the support of the missionary work of these societies, and to correlate and co-ordinate the special individual promotional work of the several societies one with another and each with the common appeal and all with the appeals of the several states for the particular missionary work within their borders and under their charge.

Your Commission recommends to the Council that the Council adopt it as a matter of procedure and instruct its Secretary accordingly that actions of the Council affecting the several Missionary Societies be referred to the respective meetings of these societies in connection with the meeting of the Council at which such actions are taken.

Further the Commission recommends to the Council that the Council ask each Society to pass an identical resolution in substance as follows:

This Society hereby appoints the Commission on Missions of the National Council as a Committee of this Society authorized and directed to represent this Society in the initiation and direction of the common appeal of the Congregational Missionary Societies to the Congregational Churches and their members for the support of the missionary work of these Societies and with the duty of correlating and co-ordinating the individual promotional work of this Society with similar promotional work on the part of the other Societies and with the common promotional work of all the Societies and with the Congregational organizations of the several states.

It is further recommended that the proposal by the General Secretary at the midwinter conference in Chicago, or some other plan, be submitted for action at the Council two years hence, during which time a further study of our missionary activity as a denomination, including the three subjects, central board of promotion, further consolidation of boards, including the relation of our women's organizations to our missionary program, and question of literature, be made by the Commission on Missions. 1923, pp. 202, 203, 204, 205.

By adoption of the report of the Committee of Twelve in 1925, concurred in by the missionary societies, the promotional functions of the Commission on Missions were enlarged in accordance with the following recommendation:

A. *The Commission on Missions.* In the interest of economy, but even more for the sake of the clearest mutual understanding, we recommend that the National Council name as its Commission on Missions the members of the Prudential Committee and of the Board of Directors of the Home Board, plus nine members at large, of whom one-third should be women, to be appointed by the National Council. The Commission should have Executive and Survey Committees. At least one-third of the members of each should be women. There should be at least one member at large on each of these committees. The functions of the Commission on Missions would continue substantially as at present plus those specified below. In connection with the apportionment schedule, the Commission on Missions should provide, with the concurrence of the Societies, for the payment from their treasuries of the following items:

(1) Its own budget, including that of the Promotional Council.

(2) The necessary budget of The Congregationalist.

(3) A miscellaneous fund to meet the fair share of the denomination in interdenominational projects.

B. *A Joint Promotional Council.* The Committee recommends a Joint Promotional Council which should be an empowered Cabinet, representing the two national boards directly, and through the Commission on Missions and the State Conferences having supervision of all solicitation of funds for the entire program of benevolences.

We believe a Joint Promotional Council can be so constituted as to provide imperatively needed unification of promotion and have the highest promise of success because this is the normal outgrowth of our past practice and true to our democratic ideals.

A Council of sixteen should include five chosen by each of the two National Boards, at least one of whom should in each instance be a woman, and three chosen by the body of State Superintendents; also the General Secretary of the National Council, the Promotional Secretary and the Secretary of the Laymen's Advisory Committee, ex officiis.

The Promotional Council should be the administrative, but not the authoritative body. The Commission on Missions, and, ad interim, its Executive Committee, authoritatively represent the Boards. A Promotional Secretary who should be the general administrative officer of the Promotional Council should be elected by the Boards on nomination of the Commission on Missions. He should be co-ordinate with the promotional secretaries of the Boards. The Promotional Council should annually elect its own chairman. It should report to the Executive Committee of the Commission on Missions or to the Commission itself.

The Promotional Council should:

1st: Prepare and direct a program of promotion culminating in the Every Member Canvass or other device as time and experience may show advisable.

2nd: Develop a secondary program of promotion which may be helpful to churches not working under the standard plan.

3d: Have general supervision of individual appeals hitherto made by the various societies, often for special pieces of work. Each society working chiefly in its own interests, has built up lists for special appeal; but these lists contain only a small percentage of the names of those Congregationalists who are of sufficient means to be able to respond to definite appeals. With reasonable regard for the confidential nature of these lists and of the past relations of each society to individuals, it is hoped that the Promotional Council can so co-ordinate such solicitation as greatly to augment the number of Congregationalists who during each year should receive special appeal, and to increase largely the sum secured from such solicitation. The development of practical plans to this end will require that the Promotional Council and the Laymen's Advisory Committee work in closest harmony with each other.

Relation with the Boards. The Promotional Council should be elected by each of the Boards as its official committee on Field Promotion, as well as by the Commission on Missions.

Secretaries of the Foreign and Home Boards should be designated to maintain vital relations between the administrative committees of the Boards and the Promotional Council. Each of these secretaries should take such part in the common promotional work as shall be arranged by him and the Promotional Council, especially in cultivating lists of individual contributors and in fostering sources of income outside the denomination.

There should be a promotional force of secretaries and others corresponding roughly to the present associate, departmental assistant and district secretaries of the societies to be elected by the two boards acting as The Commission on Missions on nomination of the Promotional Council and to be realigned by the Promotional Council as the best good of the work shall dictate. This force should work under the immediate direction of the Promotional Secretary and report through him to the Promotional Council.

We recommend (1) that the National Council request the Commission on Missions to organize the Promotional Council as soon as possible; (2) that the National Council transmit to each of the Societies at its present biennial meeting the recommendation that its entire promotional work as provided under this section on CO-ORDINATION AND PROMOTION be conducted through its promotional committee, that is, The Commission on Missions and its Promotional Council. Specifically this should include the promotional work of the district offices and of the associate, departmental, and district secretaries; the publishing and circulating of promotional literature; the preparation and distribution of stereopticon lectures; the booking of speakers; the enlargement of lists of individual givers and similar services. 1925, pp. 64, 65, 66.

(See also Benevolent Societies, section on Consolidation; Committee of Twelve, Apportionment, and extensive report of the Commission to each meeting of the Council since 1915.)

Commissions

(See also Provisions of the By-laws, By-law XI. Standing Rules, No. 6, Commission on Missions and Commission of Nineteen.)

That the Commissions of the Council for the coming biennium, other than those required by the Constitution, be as follows: Evangelism; Religious and Moral Education; Social Service; Temperance; Comity, Federation and Unity; Organization; National Service.

That each of these Commissions consist of seven persons except the last named, which shall be twenty-five in number.

That the majority of the members of any given Commission be within easy reach of some important center of Congregationalism, these centers being scattered over the nation so that the service of persons in all parts of our fellowship may be utilized.

That each Commission be requested to hold an extended and carefully planned meeting within three months of its appointment.

That the Executive Committee be instructed so far as resources permit to provide for the expenses of those in attendance at the meetings of the commissions.

That at the first meeting of the Commission a sub-committee, consisting of the Chairman and such other members as may seem desirable, be designated to act for the Commission wherever practicable, to submit plans and proposals from time to time by mail and to call a meeting of the full Commission when important matters shall demand it.

That the Executive Committee, while assigned no authority over the Commissions above named, be instructed to aid them in developing and co-ordinating their work as it may be able.

That in discharge of the duty just named the Executive Committee, at some date not more than four months before each Council Meeting, if it proves feasible, shall invite the Chairmen of all Commissions to meet with it for discussion of the reports to be presented at the coming Council, to the end that each portion of the total field may have the benefit of the thought and effort of those at work in other portions. 1917, pp. 33, 34.

Resolution approved by the Business Committee was presented by the Nominating Committee and adopted as follows:

Resolved, That for purposes of nomination for positions on commissions and committees and for other positions connected with the Council, ''ministers'' shall be deemed to be those who have been ordained, and ''laymen'' those who have not been ordained. 1919, p. 37.

Voted: The appointment of a Committee of Five to report within three days as to the number and character of the commissions desirable during the next biennium. 1923, p. 194.

The entire report of the Committee on Commissions was adopted as amended by vote upon the individual items as follows:

The ''Commission on Missions'' is a permanent Commission, and does not come under the survey of this report.

All the other Commissions, according to the Constitution, expire at the end of each biennium, and it is for each Council to determine what Commissions it needs for the next biennium.

In every period there have been some Commissions that failed to function satisfactorily. Several causes contribute to this result: (1) The members of a Commission are so widely scattered that attendance at a meeting would take from one to ten days of time for each man; (2) their traveling expenses would be far above any funds available for this purpose, and there is no money for investigation or experimentation. The result is that Commissions rarely are able to have satisfactory meetings; some never meet from one biennial to the next, and the sole accomplishment of some is to make a report for the next Council.

Another difficulty is that sometimes commissions overlap.

Sometimes, also, they are appointed impulsively and are not given a definite sphere of action. If we are to have commissions an effective part of our system, some radical changes must be made.

Many feel that we should eliminate all commissions that have fields of labor which are being cultivated by the Societies. The Societies are agents of this Council. Why appoint other agents to do the same things?

(1) We recommend that each Commission consist of active members and corresponding members. The active members shall constitute one-fourth and shall reside within a short distance of some Congregational center, that they may have several meetings without too great an expenditure of time and money. They shall present by mail to the corresponding members, who shall reside in different parts of the country, the main points at issue, and shall take final action after the replies received have been considered. Each corresponding member shall be notified of the meetings of the Commission and such corresponding members as attend may vote.

The Commission shall ordinarily consist of twenty-four members, six active and eighteen corresponding members.

(2) We recommend that the Commission on Polity be discontinued and its duties transferred to the Executive Committee of the National Council.

(3) That the Commissions on "Co-operation with Foreign-Speaking Churches," on "Inter-racial Co-operation" and the "Near East Relief" be merged into one, designated as the Commission on "International and Inter-racial Relations and the Near East."

(4) That the title of the Commission on "Comity, Federation, and Unity" be changed to "Inter-church Relations."

(5) That the Commission on "Recruiting of the Ministry," be continued under the name "Recruiting for Christian Service."

(6) That the Commission on "Religious and Moral Education," which is associated with the Education Society, which is working along these lines, be discontinued. If after two years it shall appear to the Education Society, or others, that this is a mistake, and it is needed, this action can be rescinded and the Commission restored.

(7) That the "Men's Work Commission" be continued for the biennium.

(8) That to the "Social Service Commission" be committed also the survey of the country church and agricultural life problems, these added features to receive equal consideration with the others.

(9) That the designation of the "Temperance" Commission be changed to "Law Enforcement."

(10) That the Pilgrim Memorial Commission be discontinued as requested (See page 33); and also the Commission on the Status of the Ministry, which has accomplished its work and functions with the Commission on Recruiting for Christian Service.

(11) That the Commission on Evangelism and Devotional Life be continued as now constituted. 1923, pp. 216, 217.

Partial reports of the Committee on Commissions. 1925, pp. 28, 31.

These and previous amendments make the recommendations on Commissions as adopted read as follows:

SPECIFIC COMMISSIONS

(1) We recommend that the designation of the "Commission on International and Inter-racial Relations and the Near East" be changed to the simpler and more comprehensive form "The Commission on International Relations."

(2) We recommend the appointment of an Inter-racial Commission with three special tasks:

(a) To study and report to the churches whether the civil rights and just privileges of other races in this country are being reasonably protected or increasingly limited.

(b) To study and report to our churches the work of movements that are successfully alleviating race prejudices.

(c) To encourage and foster in our churches and colleges the study of race relations from the Christian standpoint.

(3) Since the phrase "social service" has a technical and somewhat limited meaning, we recommend that this Commis-

sion's designation be changed to "The Social Relations Commission."

(4) We recommend that five Commissions, International, Inter-racial, Inter-church, Social Relations and Evangelism, be made Permanent Commissions, with a membership each of six active and eighteen corresponding members, so elected that the terms of one-third shall expire each biennium, making the regular term of membership six years.

(5) We recommend that the Commission on Men's Work and the Commission on Recruiting for Christian Service be entirely divorced from the Education Society, with which they have been intimately associated and upon which they have depended largely in their efforts to function.

We recommend that the Men's Work Commission consist of an equal number of ministers and laymen, and that it shall have four special tasks.

(1) To lead and inspire the male members of the church to function as church members, and because they are such.

(2) To encourage the formation of a men's organization in every church.

(3) To secure the contract and co-operation of such men's organizations with each other and with similar organizations in churches of other denominations.

(4) To make a special study of distinctly laymen's movements and to report to the next Council whether any type of a laymen's movement within our denomination is possible and feasible. 1925, p. 31.

The Commission on Recruiting for Christian Service shall consist mainly or altogether of pastors in college towns, members of the faculty of theological schools, universities, colleges, academies, and high schools, and possibly some students—those who are in personal, intimate, and frequent touch with students. They shall exercise no executive or promotional functions but shall make an independent investigation and study, so far as possible from youth's standpoint, why there is a lack of recruits for Christian service, and how improvement can be secured both as to number and quality. They shall make such specific recommendations to the Education Society, and to the National Council or its Executive Committee, as they may think best.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) We recommend that no new commission be appointed until the matter has been referred to the Executive Committee of the National Council, which shall report to the National

Council, whether, in their judgment, the subject deserves special consideration, and if so, whether it is already being handled or can best be handled by some existing Society, Committee, or Commission; or should have a special Commission. The decision shall rest with the Council.

(2) We recommend that each Commission make a semi-annual report to the Executive Committee of the National Council as to its progress and that once a year the chairmen of the Commissions be asked to join the Executive Committee in a conference on the work of the Commissions.

(3) We recommend the extension of the policy, already recognized and regarded, of appointing on the Commissions those who have special contacts and first-hand information in the realms under the purview of the Commissions: The Social Relations Commission to consist mainly of employers, employees, and special students of industrial and racial problems; the International Commission of those born in foreign countries, or who have lived or travelled there extensively, or have made a special study of or had intimate relations with interests abroad; The Inter-church Commission of those who have been connected at some time with other denominations or have been associated with federated movements; and so with all commissions. Care of course must be taken that on the commissions should be those who are in close touch with the life and thought of our churches, but we need to get more and more away from the feeling that commissions are places to secure recognition for distinguished gentlemen and sensitive sections of the country, or to make up the mathematical balance of the sexes. They should be bodies of experts, appointed because their judgments will have value and influence by reason of their special knowledge and experience. 1925, pp. 31, 32.

Full report of the Committee on Commissions. 1925, pp. 95-98.

SECRETARIES OF COMMISSIONS

Upon presentation by the Business Committee the following resolution was adopted:

In view of the recommendations of several commissions of the National Council that executive secretaries not heretofore provided be provided to aid the promotion of their work, and in view of the responsibility of the Executive Committee of the National Council for the expenditure of funds available for such purposes, it is voted that these recommendations be referred to the Executive Committee for consideration in consultation with such Commissions in order that provision may be made for carrying on the work needed in so far as the funds available permit and in order that unnecessary duplication of facilities may be avoided. 1927, p. 204.

The following table gives the list of ad interim committees previous to the reorganization in 1913 and of commissions following that reorganization, together with the years in which such commissions were appointed (Perpetual Committees not included):

1871

American Home Missionary Society, Conference With
Consolidation of Benevolent Societies
Comity
Manual of Doctrine and Polity.
Publishing
Society or Parish System

1874

Comity
Publishing
Society or Parish System

1877

American Congregational Union
Disabled Ministers
Ministerial Responsibility and Standing
Monument to Rev. John Robinson
Parish System
Pastorless Churches and Churchless Pastors
Publishing

1880

Declaration of Faith
Monument to Rev. John Robinson
Protest Against Allotment of Indian Agencies to Distinct Denominational Care
Publishing
Recognition of Persons Virtually Pastors not Installed by Council
To correspond with General Associations of N. Y. and N. J.

1883

Disabled Ministers
Indian Affairs
Ministerial Standing
Monument to Rev. John Robinson
Publishing
Sunday School Work
Systematic Giving
Utilizing Ministerial Force and Investigation on Small Number of Accessions to Churches

1886

By-Laws for Trustees
City Evangelization
Church-loan Fund
Comity
Conference with American Home Missionary Society
Free Baptists
Marietta Centennial
Marriage and Divorce
Ministerial Relief
Mormon Commission
Publishing
Robinson, Rev. John
Scandinavians
Sunday School Work
Systematic Beneficence
Temperance
Woman's Home Missionary Association
Worship

1889

Manual for Missionary Churches
Ministerial Supply
Relations of Benevolent Societies to Churches
Relations of Said Societies to Each Other
Scandinavian Churches
Religious Needs of Army and Navy
Revision of Church Admission Form
Periodicals
Sabbath Observance

1892

Capital and Labor
Christian Unity
Church Manual
City Evangelization
Columbian Exposition
Expenses of Delegates
Marriage and Divorce
Ministerial Standing
Prison Reform
Relations of Benevolent Societies to Churches

Religious Needs of Army and Navy
Sabbath Observance
Secret and Social Societies
Temperance
Union with Free Baptists

1895

Arrangements for Next Meeting
City Evangelization
Church Manual
Divorce
Gambling
International Council
Ministerial Standing
On Relations of Benevolent Societies to the Churches
Prison Reform
Secret and Social Societies
Union

1898

Anti-Saloon League
Charter
Comity
Councils and Pastorate
International Council
Ministerial Relief
Missionary Work
Publishing
Robinson Memorial Church, John

1901

Deaconess Association
Expenses of Delegates
Federation of Societies
Labor
Manual for Instruction of Youth
Polygamy
Protection of Church Property
St. Louis Exposition
Worship
Yale Bi-centennial

1904

Charities and Correction
Chinese Exclusion
Church Property
Colleges
Deaconesses
Evangelistic Work
Federation of Societies
Federation, Comity and Unity
Industrial Committee
Marriage and Home
Ministry, Increase of
Pastoral Relations
Polity
Religious Education
Sphere of the Moderator
Sunday Observance
Temperance
Tercentenary of Congregationalism.

1907

Benevolent Societies
Calvin Centenary
Church Property
City Extension Societies
Comity, Federation and Unity
Congregational Brotherhood
Evangelistic Work
Incorporation of National Council
Industrial
Inter-church Relations
International Council
Ministerial Education
Oriental Immigration
Polity
Publishing
Provisional
Religious Education
Temperance
Trustees
Worship

1910

Apportionment Plan
Brotherhood
Calvin Centenary
Church Property
Church Unity
Comity, Federation and Unity
Co-operation with National Conference Charities and Corrections
Evangelism
Industrial
Ministerial Education

1913

Bible Cause
Moral and Religious Welfare of Men Under the Flag
Commission on Missions
Comity, Federation and Unity
Evangelism
Public Worship
Religious and Moral Education
Social Service
Temperance

1915

Comity, Federation and Unity
Evangelism
Moral and Religious Education
Social Service
Public Worship
Temperance

1917

Comity, Federation and Unity
Evangelism
National Service
Organization
Religious and Moral Education
Temperance
Social Service

1919

Comity, Federation and Unity
To Confer with Episcopal Gen'l Convention
Evangelism
International Council
Ordained women, etc.
Organization
Pilgrim Memorial Fund
Religious and Moral Education
Social Service
Status of the Ministry
Temperance
Theological Seminaries

1923

Evangelism
Inter-church Relations
International and Inter-racial Relations
Law Enforcement
Men's Work
Preservation Sacred Places
Recruiting
Social Service

1925

Committee of Twelve
Evangelism
Inter-church Relations
International Relations
Inter-racial Relations
Law Enforcement
Men's Work
Recruiting
Social Relations

1927

Broadcasting
Motion Pictures
Standards for Ministry
Denominational History
Evangelism
Inter-church Relations
International Relations
Inter-racial Relations
Law Enforcement
Men's Work
Recruiting
Social Relations

1929

Broadcasting
Church Attendance
Denominational History
Evangelism
Inter-church Relations
International Relations
Inter-racial Relations
Law Observance
Motion Pictures
Social Relations
Standards for Ministry
Recruiting

Committee of Twelve

(The Committee of Twelve was a committee appointed by the Commission on Missions pursuant to the instructions of the Council in 1923 that a careful study of our missionary organizations be made.)

The report of 1925, pages 56 and 57, proposes the consolidation and adjustments of Societies, for which see Benevolent Societies under heading of Consolidation.

Resolved, That we express to the Committee of Twelve on Organization our deep appreciation of their indefatigable labors on the difficult and intricate problems committed to them; their constant call for constructive suggestions; their high-minded and impartial consideration of all issues involved; their clear vision of an ideal to be attained in the promotion of the simplicity and effectiveness of our service; their spirit of conciliation; their tactful shaping of their report in its final stages, and their exaltation of our high traditions of fellowship and missionary devotion. The faith-filled vision of the Committee has been equalled only by the faith-supported acquiescence of the Societies, and we move forward unitedly in the development of the plan which they have proposed with high confidence both in the spirit by which it is animated and the ends which it seeks. 1925, pp. 46, 47.

Report of the Committee of Twelve. 1925, pp. 56-70. 1927, pp. 196-200; 202, 203.

(For substance of this report see Benevolent Societies, p. 59.)

Proposals for amendments of by-laws of the Congregational Home Missionary Society illustrative of changes in the fundamental basis of all the Societies. 1927, pp. 116-122.

Review of Work 1929, pp. 18, 30, 31.

Committees

(See Commissions. By-law VIII.)

That the Nominating Committee be requested to bring before the Council the nominations for committees on business, finance, printing, and devotional exercises.

That the Nominating Committee be authorized to nominate as many persons on each of these committees as they think best. 1865, p. 64.

It was *voted*, That the Committee on Nominations be requested to present the names of persons to be chosen as secretary, registrar, and treasurer. 1883, p. 11.

It was *resolved*, That a more exact classification of the various committees called for by the work of the Council is desirable, and that they be designated in the Minutes according to the facts, as standing committees, ad interim committees, session committees. 1889, p. 36.

Resolved (1), We recommend that in the selection of committees the Nominating Committee seek to give work to as many members of the Council as may be possible with due regard to the important interests to be submitted, in order that the results of our Councils may reflect the opinions of the churches; and, further, that they seek to avoid, as far as may be wise, the appointment of the same man on more than one committee, or on the same standing committee through more than one Council. 1892, p. 45.

It was *voted*, That the Committee on Nominations be instructed to nominate no standing committees, except such as may be provided for by special vote of the Council. 1898, p. 21.

The Provisional Committee. See Original Constitution, III, 6; By-law V.

Committees shall be appointed in such manner as may from time to time be ordered. Constitution, as it read in 1904, III, 7.

Present provisions for committees. By-laws, VII and VIII.

(For information regarding the large number of committees or any one of them, see indices of the various volumes of the minutes.)

Conditional Gifts

The following resolution from the Corporation for the National Council was adopted:

Resolved, That the National Council empowers the Corporation for the National Council to receive conditional gifts on such provisos as may be satisfactory to the Corporation and authorizes the Corporation to use the income of funds held by the Corporation for the uses of the National Council and the principal of such funds so far as they are not designated as trust funds, to fulfill the terms of any conditional gift.

It further authorizes and instructs the Executive Committee of the National Council to pay to the Corporation such sums from its current income as may at any time be needed to fulfil any contract for a conditional gift accepted by the Corporation. 1925, p. 43.

Congo Atrocities

Whereas, Information received through missionaries and others, that a serious condition exists in the Congo Free State and has already been presented to the Congress of the United States and printed as Senate Document No. 282 of the Fifty-eighth Congress, Second Session, and

Whereas, An investigation of the conditions has been requested by the Congo Reform Association of England, which request has been indorsed by the American Baptist Missionary Union and the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, therefore,

Resolved, That this National Council of the Congregational churches of the United States hereby expresses its interest in this movement for humanity, and authorizes its moderator, at his discretion, to represent it in any memorial to the President or other authorities at Washington. 1904, p. 535.

Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief

(For a number of years the national ministerial relief work was carried on by the National Council itself, particularly under the trustees of the Council. See Trustees. See also Ministerial

Relief for activities previous to the change of the name of the Trustees of the National Council to the Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief.)

Resolution amending the charter of the Trustees of the National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States. Passed by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut in January session, 1907, in part as follows:

''That the body politic and corporate incorporated by resolution approved March 24, 1885, as The Trustees of the National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States, shall hereafter be called and known as The Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief.

''SECT. 4. The object of said corporation shall be to secure, hold, manage, and distribute funds for the relief of needy Congregational ministers and the needy families of deceased Congregational ministers, in accordance with resolutions and declarations adopted or made, from time to time, by the National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States, or by any body which may succeed to the present functions of that council; and said corporation may co-operate with any other corporation or body which is under the charge and control of churches of the Congregational order in the United States, or of churches at the time affiliated with said order.

''SECT. 6. This resolution shall not be operative unless the same shall be approved by said National Council at its meeting held in 1907.''

The following was adopted by the National Council, 1907:

Resolved, That the National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States at this its meeting in 1907 approves the resolution entitled, a resolution ''amending the Charter of the Trustees of the National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States,'' passed by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut at its January session, 1907, and approved by the governor, March 27, 1907. 1907, pp. 377, 378.

By-laws of the Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief. 1907, p. 379.

The following was adopted:

In view of the possible enlargement of the administrative function of the National Council, and in view of the fact that the work of ministerial relief is the conspicuous experiment in administrative work now being carried on by the National Council,

Voted, That the Commission of Nineteen in the course of its investigations be asked especially to review the work of ministerial relief as to efficiency and economy, and make recommendations at the next regular adjourned or special meeting of the Council. 1910, p. 407.

From the report of the Board in 1910:

When we consider these facts, the Endowment Fund is a matter of the greatest importance. Your board is glad to report an advance for the three years, in this fund, of $32,243.09. The total fund is now $200,521.16, including $8,250 of life tenancy gifts. The Council has set one million dollars as the immediate goal for this fund. It is a matter of surprise that more persons of wealth do not recognize the claim and the opportunity of this field for benevolent effort. We earnestly appeal to those who have means, for large gifts to the permanent funds of the board and for remembrance of it in wills. 1910, p. 185.

The Commission of Nineteen made the following report, which was adopted:

We thoroughly endorse the work of the Board of Ministerial Relief and feel that it ought to have the heartiest support of all the churches and the most cordial co-operation of all existing state relief societies. We hope the day is not far distant when the present fund of $275,000 will reach the ultimate goal of a million, when every aged and dependent minister can be tenderly and adequately cared for. 1913, p. 403.

See Annuity Fund, report of committee recommending establishment of Annuity Fund.

Voted, That all undesignated collections and gifts for Ministerial Relief be divided equally between the Board of Ministerial Relief and Annuity Fund. 1917, p. 64.

On recommendation of the Business Committee the following was adopted:

That initiative be taken by the Board of Ministerial Relief of the National Council looking to the largest possible unification of the national and state service, reserving to the states advisory functions in the approval of applications for such relief. 1919, p. 44.

Associated with the Annuity Fund under the popular name "The Ministerial Boards." 1923, p. 212.

Comity on matters of Ministerial Relief with the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. 1923, pp. 213-215.

Comity with the Reformed Church on Ministerial Relief. 1925, pp. 35, 36.

Provisions for merging with the Home Board. 1925, p. 36; 1927, p. 207.

See regular reports in minutes.

See also *Annuity Fund.*

Congregational Board of Pastoral Supply

The Executive Committee presented the following resolution, which was adopted:

That the Council heartily approves the extension of the work of the Congregational Board of Pastoral Supply already being made in New England; that the Executive Committee be directed to investigate the conditions for establishing similar agencies throughout the country. 1915, p. 45.

That the Executive Committee be instructed to submit to the State Conferences a detailed plan in general harmony with the terms of its report for the establishment of a national system of Pastoral Supply Bureaus, and to ask their advice concerning such plan. 1917, p. 34.

(The report referred to above suggested the feasibility of the Board of Pastoral Supply serving as a bureau of information for the more remote parts of the country, which it is in no position to serve as it does New England.) See 1915, p. 235.

Report of the Executive Committee on a national system of Pastoral Supply Bureaus. 1917, pp. 106-108.

On recommendation of the Commission on Organization the following was adopted:

> That the Executive Committee be instructed to make further careful study of the problem of pastoral supply and of the wisdom and expediency of instituting Bureaus of Pastoral Supply for the entire country. 1919, p. 44.

Report of the Commission on Organization on the problem of Pastoral Supply. 1919, pp. 187-189. This report records the reference of the question to the state superintendents of the West at the Midwinter Meeting and by mail, with disinclination to favor the establishment of bureaus, as suggested, but recommends a further study of the problem by the Executive Committee.

Congregational Church Building Society

What is now the Congregational Church Building Society grew out of the Albany Convention (which see) and was incorporated under the name of the American Congregational Union. At the annual meeting of the Society on January 14, 1892, the corporate name was changed to the Congregational Church Building Society, which is clearly definitive of the work of the organization. The following bears upon the organization from its beginning:

Report on Church Building, 1865, p. 262; Suggestive addresses, pp. 409-413.

Resolved (1), That as the work of aiding to erect Christian sanctuaries in our home mission fields was inaugurated in the

Albany Convention, and was taken up with renewed enthusiasm by the Boston Council, so this first meeting of our triennial Council ought to mark a new epoch of increased efficiency and enlarged usefulness in the history of this enterprise.

Resolved (2), That in the judgment of the Council the American Congregational Union ought to receive and disburse within the coming year $100,000, thus securing the erection of not less than two hundred church edifices where they will be permanent centers of saving influences in our new states and territories.

Resolved (3), That to accomplish this object it is hereby earnestly recommended to all the churches which are represented in this Council to take a collection for this cause with as little delay as possible, and to give it a permanent place every year on their schedule of stated contributions. 1871, p. 45.

The Union (Building Society) commended. 1874, p. 31.

Whereas, The trustees of the American Congregational Union, by its delegate, have informed us of their appointment of a committee from its incorporators in order that such methods of reorganization may be adopted as shall vigorously and successfully advance the cause; and

Whereas, They also appeal in their communication to this Council to the churches and pastors to give the board of trustees the benefit of their suggestions to this committee;

Resolved (1), That a committee of seven be appointed by this Council to confer at an early date with the committee appointed by the board of trustees, to the end that the important work committed to the union may proceed unhindered.

Resolved (2), That this committee be empowered to fill vacancies, and required to make at the proper time such a statement to the public as it may deem expedient, and also a final report to the next triennial Council. 1877, pp. 41-44. Statement of, p. 88.

Voted to print the Report and Statement, and commend them to the churches. 1880, p. 18. Report on, p. 99.

Resolved, That the sum of $300,000 annually for the next three years is imperatively needed for the important work of this society, that it may meet the regular demands upon its treasury and advance to the new work which the providences of God are laying at its door—$100,000 of this sum to be used in helping the new and weak churches on the frontier; $100,000 for aid in building in the large centers; and $100,000, imperatively demanded, for new work in our great cities—this last amount to be raised by contributions in larger sums from individual donors. 1886, p. 26. Report on, p. 151; Statement of, p. 147.

By action of the Council in 1915 the Congregational Church Building Society became one of the three societies grouped as the Church Extension Boards. 1915, p. 273. (See Benevolent Societies under section Consolidation.)

Voted: That the Commission on Missions be requested to study the present conditions existing between the City Mission and Church Extension Societies and the Congregational Church Building Society in matters relating to (1) the crediting on Apportionment of contributions secured by these city societies for the purchase of lots and church buildings; as well as (2) the equitable securing by mortgage of such investment as each society may make in individual churches needing assistance. 1917, pp. 64, 65.

The following resolution was adopted:

Whereas, The recent "Together Campaign" has removed the burdensome and crippling debts of the American Board, the Home Missionary Society, and the American Missionary Association, thus equipping them for new efficiency in their work, and in this movement the Church Building Society heartily cooperated, although it had no debt; and

Whereas, The need for aid has very greatly increased in recent years, so that the appeals of new and needy churches far exceed the ability of the Church Building Society to make prompt response to them, and there is a constant waiting list of scores of churches whose success and even life are threatened unless they can soon be helped; and

Whereas, The development of our power as an agency for the spread of the kingdom of Christ throughout the world depends upon the successful development of our churches;

Resolved, That an immediate effort should be made to rescue these distressed and imperiled churches by means of largely increased contributions through the Church Building Society; and to this end the Council urges that the full apportionment in contributions to the Church Building Society be given each year; and that by special individual gifts the Parsonage Loan Fund should be increased from $125,000 to $200,000, and the Church Loan Fund should be increased from $800,000 to $1,000,000; and it recommends that the society put forth every effort to secure these desired results before the meeting of the next Triennial Council. 1910, pp. 40, 402.

Church Architecture

Rev. Frank Dyer, Illinois, presented the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the memorial from the Congregational Ministerial Union of Chicago and the Congregational Conference of Illinois regarding the architecture of our church buildings be referred to the Congregational Church Building Society with the approval of this Council; and the Council urges our churches, especially those which hope to receive the aid of the denomination in erecting their houses of worship, to confer with the Church Building Society before they begin to build, that they may receive suggestions about their plans. 1910, p. 406.

(See also Church Loan Fund.)

Congregational Education Society

Note: In 1816 the American Society for the Education of Pious Youth for the Gospel Ministry was incorporated. In 1819 the name was changed to the American Education Society. The consolidation of the American Education Society and the Society for the Promotion of Collegiate and Theological Education was effected under the name of the American College and Education Society. In 1893 the name was changed to the American Education Society. In 1894 the name was changed to Congregational Education Society. By action of the National Council, concurred in by the Societies in 1917 the work of religious education through the Sunday Schools, formerly conducted by the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society, was transferred to the Congregational Education Society, and by the readjustment of 1915 the Society was associated with the Congregational Publishing Society under common officers and directors.

References to, in Reports and Discussions. 1865, pp. 229, 411.

That in order to the raising up of an educated ministry for the supply of the churches of the new states, now becoming filled by the advancing tide of population, and to meet the large demands of those states which recent events have opened to Christian influence, it is a fundamental necessity that well-endowed and well-manned collegiate and theological institutions should be established, and that, too, in the best positions.

That the Society for the Promotion of Collegiate and Theological Education at the West, in rendering efficient aid to fourteen collegiate and theological institutions scattered from eastern Ohio to the Pacific coast, so placing them on sure foundations, and in so managing this whole subject as at once to have saved the churches from annoyance and to have given a wise direction to their charities, has accomplished a work of great and enduring benefit, which this Council recognize with gratitude to God, by whose help it has been wrought.

That in view of the great work remaining to be done, both at the West and in the South, and the admirable adaptation of this society to the accomplishment of it with the least possible friction and expense, this Council do heartily commend it to the increased confidence and larger liberality of the churches represented here. 1865, p. 484. Report on, p. 470.

That the American Education Society and kindred societies ought to receive the sympathy and generosity of the churches, expressed by regular, stated contributions to their funds. 1871, p. 59.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF COLLEGIATE AND THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION AT THE WEST

Resolved (1), That while the times on which we are thrown demand, for the maintenance of Christian truth and the prosecution of Christian work, instruments no less vigorous and far more varied than in former times; and while all instruments manifestly prove themselves worthless, save as a higher and higher consecration takes possession of them, and the Holy Ghost, present and inworking, employs them; the distinctively Christian college still stands, as it ever has done in this land, in the front of the means God has pointed out and blessed for the production of the choicest and best Christian laborers.

Resolved (2), That the planting of Christian colleges and theological seminaries in our younger states commends itself now more strongly than ever before to *all* our churches, especially to such individuals as are wealthy; and that recent instances of liberality in this line of giving inspires us with the hope that the whole work is to receive a new and powerful impulse.

Resolved (3), That it is the duty of the pulpit systematically and thoroughly to instruct the whole people touching the indispensable necessity of Christian education, and the consequent necessity of sustaining these institutions.

Resolved (4), That the Society for the Promotion of Collegiate and Theological Education at the West, by its simple machinery, its comprehensive policy, and its successes already achieved, is fitted to prosecute this great and increasing work; and we heartily commend it to the confidence and increased liberality of the churches and to their regular contributions. 1871, p. 50.

Resolved, That the Council heartily approves of the consolidation already effected between the American Education Society and the College Society, and commends the new organization to the generous support of the churches. 1874, p. 23.

1. The union of the American Education Society and the College Society was a wise measure. Results have justified it. The method by which the colleges needing aid are permitted to solicit it seems an equitable one, and not in conflict with the principle of economy which must obtain in the administration of all our benevolent societies. It is the opinion of your committee that the moral influence of this Council should enforce their plea whenever they ask aid on the fields which the society has assigned to them.

2. It is not expedient for the churches to decline to aid young men in preparation for the ministry. And whatever incidental evils attend the present system of aiding them, it is not just to ask that they shall spend ten years in preparing to serve the churches without substantial assistance from those who are to be benefited by their long course of study. . . .

But whatever is done, the utmost care should be taken that only good and capable men be aided. To elevate the character of the ministry so that it shall deserve and shall command the respect of all thoughtful persons should be the aim of those who have the oversight of these benevolent offerings of our churches.

3. For this reason, the action of the Directors of this society making it a rule, *with proper exceptions,* "to receive upon the lists only those who are pursuing the full collegiate and theological courses of study" seems to be eminently wise and worthy of the indorsement of this Council. The fact that there are exceptions must be recognized, and we have confidence that the officers of the society will not fail to treat them fairly. 1877, p. 32. Statement of, p. 93.

Resolved (1), That all our churches be earnestly requested to make annual contributions to the American College and Education Society, to aid young men in their preparation for the gospel ministry.

Resolved (2), That, in order to secure this end and prevent repeated applications to the same church, the Council recommend to the society to make such arrangements with the colleges seeking its aid as to limit them to individual benefactions, leaving the contributions of the churches to be applied to the aid of ministerial students. 1883, p. 30. Statement of, p. 129; Report on, p. 173.

Resolved, That we regard the work of Christian education represented by the College and Education Society as an essential part of our system of benevolences, closely related to all our church and missionary work, and especially important at this time in view of the inadequate supply of ministers; and that we urge the churches to place it upon their list of objects of benevolence, and to contribute regularly and generously to its support. 1886, p. 42. Statement of, p. 139; Report on, p. 145.

Whereas, The German Seminary of Crete, Nebraska, prepares its students directly for the Chicago Seminary, and there is no German college which they can visit; therefore,

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Council that the conditions for aiding young men studying for the ministry be extended by the Education Society so as to include such students in that institution.

Resolved, That the Council advise that the same provision be extended to the students studying for the ministry in Hopkins Academy, Oakland, California, who have no Christian college which they can attend, and who intend to go directly from that academy to the Pacific Theological Seminary. 1889, p. 45. Statement of, p. 127; Report on, p. 131.

PROPOSED CONSOLIDATION WITH NEW WEST EDUCATION COMMISSION

It was *resolved,* That the National Council has heard with much satisfaction of the proposed consolidation of the American College and Education Society and the New West Education Commission, and hereby expresses its deep conviction that, if this union shall be effected on terms satisfactory to both societies, an organization of great promise and capable of meeting in some adequate degree the pressing demands for Christian education, which new conditions are forcing upon us, will be created.

And this Council, anticipating this consummation, and wishing to avert from the new society the peril which would arise from any falling off of the contributions hitherto received by both, would remind the churches that the enlarged work immediately confronting the new society, resulting from the consolidation of the two, will demand greatly enlarged contributions, and would therefore earnestly recommend that it shall at once be accorded a place upon the benevolent lists of all our churches. 1892, p. 28. Statement of, p. 129; Report on, p. 141.

Plan of readjustment and association with the Publishing Society. 1915, pp. 276-279.

On recommendation of the Commission on Organization the following resolution was adopted:

That the Education Society provide a uniform course of study for such ministerial candidates as have been unable to avail themselves of the advantages of collegiate and seminary training, the course to cover a period of three years, and that it be tendered to the State Conferences and through them to the Local Associations as a suggestive course. 1919, p. 43.

Report of the Commission on Religious and Moral Education regarding the Education Society. 1919, p. 252.

In the establishment of the Foundation for Education it was provided:

The Congregational Education Society shall be authorized to transfer to the Foundation such phases of its work as have to do directly with educational institutions. The time and method of the transfer shall be determined upon after conference between the officers of the Foundation and of the Education Society. 1921, p. 384.

(See also Benevolent Societies and Congregational Foundation for Education.)

Congregational Foundation for Education, The

(See also Congregational Education Society.)

The plan for a "Congregational Foundation for Education" as amended, was adopted as follows:

To make closer, more sympathetic and more mutually helpful the relations of the churches and educational institutions of our fellowship, the Commission on Missions of the National Council recommends the establishment of The Congregational Foundation for Education, as follows:

1. *Purpose:*

a. To promote the ideals of the churches of the Congregational fellowship through institutions of secondary and higher education which possess those ideals and share in that fellowship.

b. To make available the resources of our fellowship for the counsel and encouragement of these institutions in the realization of our common purposes.

c. To establish a permanent fund, the income of which shall be used to aid the upbuilding and maintenance of these institutions.

d. To provide an agency for the study of the educational problems of these institutions and for the demonstration and distribution of these funds in such ways as shall best further the common interests and ideals of these institutions and our churches, by the maintenance in these institutions of high standards of educational efficiency and moral and religious purpose.

2. *Name:* "The Congregational Foundation for Education."

3. *Organization:* A board of eighteen trustees, six of whom shall be elected for two years, six for four years, and six for six years,—all subsequent elections to be for six-year terms. It is suggested that approximately one-third of the total number be pastors of churches, one-third educators, and one-third laymen. The Foundation shall have power to fill any vacancy in its own number until the next stated meeting of the Council.

The President of the Foundation shall be its executive officer.

The President and Trustees of the Foundation shall be elected by the National Council upon nomination by its nominating committee, unless otherwise authorized by the Council.

The following officers shall be elected annually by the Trustees of the Foundation: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and

Treasurer. The Secretary and Treasurer may be elected from outside the Board of Trustees. The Trustees of the Foundation may elect such additional officers and create such committees as in its judgment may be necessary to carry on effectively the work of the Foundation.

4. *Headquarters:* The headquarters of the Foundation shall be in the city of Chicago.

5. *Financial Resources:*

a. The Expenses of the Foundation for 1921 shall be paid out of 1921 apportionment funds raised for educational institutions.

b. The Foundation shall be included in the 1922 apportionment for seven per cent of the total receipts. The President and Trustees of the Foundation shall be authorized to undertake to raise during 1922 such an additional sum as may be necessary to supplement the amount received from the 1922 apportionment to make a total current income of at least $500,000 for 1922. It is understood that the expenses of the Foundation shall be paid from its current income and the balance distributed among approved institutions upon such conditions as may be determined by the Trustees of the Foundation.

c. The President and Trustees of the Foundation shall be authorized to raise during the years 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1926, for current uses as indicated in "b" above, a sum of not less than $500,000 annually.

d. The President and Trustees of the Foundation shall be authorized to inaugurate a movement for securing an adequate endowment and to take such steps as may be necessary to bring the movement to a successful completion. The president and trustees, in deciding upon the endowment goal, are asked to consult as fully as possible with the State Conferences.

e. The endowment fund shall be held in trust by the Corporation for the National Council of Congregational Churches in America, the available net income, as determined by said Corporation, to be turned over to the Trustees of the Foundation, to be used for the purposes for which the Foundation is established. 1921, pp. 382-384.

Voted: The National Council rejoices in the statesmanlike proposals of our retiring Moderator, President Henry Churchill King, and the retiring Chairman of the Commission on Missions, President Donald J. Cowling, for the establishment of the Congregational Foundation of Education to adequately support our colleges and to bring our churches and colleges into more vital and intimate relations. 1921, p. 392.

On recommendation of the Commission on Missions it was voted:

That the Foundation for Education be continued on the apportionment for 1925 and 1926. 1923, p. 199.

In 1927 the Foundation for Education became a department of the Congregational Education Society. (See Benevolent Societies, section on Consolidation.)

Congregational Home Missionary Society

Note: The corporation now known as the Congregational Home Missionary Society was organized as the American Missionary Society on May 10, 1926, in New York City. At first it served several denominations, but as other groups withdrew it was left to the Congregationalists, and in 1893 the present name was adopted indicating its position in the denomination. Under the reorganization following the action of the National Council in 1915 it became one of the three Societies grouped under the informal term the Church Extension Boards. (See Benevolent Societies, section on Consolidation.)

See 1865, pp. 228, 260, 411.

Firstly. We record with profound gratitude our sense of God's great and seasonable mercy in raising up for our times and for our country the American Home Missionary Society; we rejoice in the honor he has put on this agency in giving it the affectionate favor of our churches, and in blessing it for these fifty years with an evangelizing efficiency which has for its imperishable memorial, state beyond state, from the sea to the river, and from the river to the ends of our earth, planted under its auspices with Christian institutions; and in the name of all our churches, both those which are aided and those which are aiding in this service, we bear grateful testimony to the eminent fidelity and discretion which have so generally characterized its administration.

Secondly. While we rejoice in the abundant fruits of our home missionary work, and admire the liberal blessing that has crowned our labors in this direction, we are humbled by the conviction that we have but found our work, not done it. . . . .

Thirdly. Instructed by our work itself, as it passes from one stage to another, we discern the necessity of greater flexibility in our method and measures; and we recommend:

1. That a state organization be formed in every state, upon which shall be devolved the development and direction of the work in its own field to the extent of the funds it may raise.

2. That the secretaries avail themselves to the utmost of whatever wisdom to direct can be gathered from those closest to the work.

3. That the policy and practice on which the society has proceeded, of invading unevangelized fields and sending its missionaries into the regions beyond, and among all, of whatever nationality, open to our approach, be largely pursued; and,

4. That the obligation be still more urgently pressed on the aided churches, both in the older states and in the new, to cease from their dependence as early as possible, for the sake of those famishing in utter want.

Fourthly. We recommend that a committee of five be appointed by this Council to confer with the Executive Committee of the Home Missionary Society, and arrange with them a plan on which the state organizations can co-operate in efficient harmony with the parent society for the common end; and that this committee take action in season for the plan proposed to be in readiness for the several state associations, conferences, or conventions, at their next annual meetings.

Fifthly. For the compassing of the vast evangelizing work now devolved upon us, we urge upon our churches that at once *not less than half a million annually* be devoted to our home missionary enterprise. 1871, p. 51.

DEFICIT

Resolved, That we learn with regret the financial embarrassment of the American Home Missionary Society, occasioned not by the diminution of its receipts, but by the enlargement of its work; and we earnestly exhort the churches to make such prompt and liberal gifts to its treasury as will enable it not only to supply the wants of its missionaries, but to extend the scale of its operations as the providence of God demands. 1871, p. 57.

Commended. 1874, pp. 26, 31. (See Consolidation of Societies.)

Plan of Readjustment under Extension Boards. 1915, p. 273.
Relations to state organizations. 1915, p. 279.

(Since 1904 the Society has held its annual meeting in conjunction with the National Council in years when the Council has met.)

See also Church Extension, and Benevolent Societies.

Congregational House

Commended, 1865, p. 249; Report of committee on, p. 391; Discussion of report, and adoption, p. 397.

Resolved, That the Congregational House, as representing our principles and as affording a home for our benevolent societies and our peerless library, should be taken hold of by our churches and be built as soon as possible. 1871, p. 37.

It was *resolved,* That this Council request the Congregational churches which made special contributions during the memorial year for the payment of debts, the endowment of institutions, and the erection and completion of buildings for sacred and educational purposes, including the proposed Congregational House at Boston, to make report of the same to Rev. Isaac P. Langworthy, of Boston, secretary of the American Congregational Association, with a view to their publication, whenever it may be expedient. 1871, p. 43.

(The Congregational House was erected in 1898 in Boston under the trusteeship of the American Congregational Association. It houses the Congregational Library, provides rooms at low cost for fourteen Congregational organizations, Congregational Book Store and Pilgrim Hall for Congregational gatherings. It is located at 14 Beacon Street, Boston.)

Congregationalism

Addresses and Papers. 1907, p. 52; 1910, p. 9 following; 34 to 40; 285; 1913, p. 9; 1923, p. 170; 1925, p. 85; 1927, p. 178, with numerous references throughout the minutes of the Council.

(See Tercentenary)

Congregationalist, The

Held by the Publishing Society as a trust for the denomination. 1910, p. 178.

Merger with The Advance. 1917, p. 44. (See Advance, The)

(See also Periodicals.)

Congregational Publishing Society

Note.—The Massachusetts Sabbath School Society was organized in 1832. It gave aid to Presbyterian and Congregational Sunday Schools and the ''Plan of Union'' was given up in 1852. In 1862 it absorbed the Doctrinal Tract and Book Society. Under the advice of the National Council the Sunday School missionary work was transferred to the American Home Missionary Society. In 1882 the National Council advised that this work be restored to the Sunday School Society.

Again in 1915 and 1917 the Council took action which assigned the Sunday School missionary work to a new organization called The Congregational Sunday School Extension Society (which see) and the religious education work to the Education Society, leaving the Publishing Society a business corporation. See Benevolent Societies, section on Consolidation.

Relation of, to the churches, 1865, pp. 315-341.

Committee presented a report with a resolution. Report accepted, approved. Resolution discussed and laid on the table. 1871, p. 37.

That we heartily commend the Congregational Publishing Society as worthy to receive the most liberal pecuniary support from our churches, and as furnishing the religious literature which they need. 1871, p. 38.

Offers to print and distribute Minutes of the Council without expense to the Council. 1871, p. 57.

Resolved, That we advise that the Congregational Publishing Society be disembarrassed of all work incongruous with a strictly business enterprise, and that every possible effort be made to promote its prosperity in its special field by securing, through its agency, the publication and sale of denominational and Sunday School literature of a high order. 1874, p. 28.

Report of committee on statement of, adopted. 1874, p. 31. Statement of, p. 98.

Statement of, p. 98. 1877, p. 31.

It was *resolved,* That this Council, recognizing the importance of the Sunday School work, and of securing harmony in its prosecution, recommend the American Home Missionary Society and the Congregational Publishing Society to confer for the purpose of adjusting more effectually their mutual relations, and securing unity and harmony in the prosecution of that work. 1880, p. 32.

Resolved (1), That our churches and Sunday Schools be urged to join in an effort to raise immediately $75,000 as an addition to the capital of the publication department of the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society. 1883, p. 29.

Resolved (2), That, in our opinion, the time has fully come for greater loyalty to the publications of our own society, as we are convinced that they are equal to any and superior to most; that we thankfully recognize the efforts of the Board of Managers constantly to improve these publications; and that while we would not presume to dictate, we cannot but disapprove the tendency in many quarters to use helps which are *cheap* in every sense of the word.

Resolved (3), That this society has a field peculiarly its own, and is the legitimate channel for our national Sunday School work, and that we are decided in our opinion that contributions for Sunday School work should be forwarded to its missionary treasury.

Resolved (4), That, because of the vital connection between the church and Sunday School, and the importance of a higher standard of teaching, we recommend the state and local associations and conferences of the various states of the Union to give special attention and time to Sunday School work.

Resolved (5), That the work of the Sunday School is not accomplished by anything short of the salvation of the children, and that on this depends the salvation and perpetuity of the church.

Resolved (6), That, to secure a more vigorous prosecution and accurate knowledge of Sunday School work, a national committee be chosen to co-operate with the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society in getting statistics and laying the work before our churches.

Resolutions of confidence and commendation to the churches. 1883, p. 29. Statements of, pp. 139, 144.

Resolved (1), That the churches represented by this Council raise at least $100,000 each year for the next three years for the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society for its missionary work.

Resolved (2), That we recommend that a committee on Sunday Schools be appointed, who, through state and local associations, shall gather statistics and in other ways advance the interests of our Sunday Schools, and make a report at the next National Council.

Resolved (3), That we most earnestly commend the admirable publications of the society, and recommend that all our churches and Sunday Schools manifest their loyalty to the denomination with which they are connected by patronizing their own publishing house. 1886, p. 22. Statement of, pp. 152-157.

Resolved (1), That this Council recommend to the churches that they give to the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society their heartiest sympathy, and that they send their church as well as Sunday School contributions for Sunday School work to this society rather than to those organizations which have no relation to our churches, and which are not responsible to our denomination.

Resolved (2), That this Council renews its recommendation that a special effort be made by our churches to raise at least $300,000 for the prosecution of this work during the three ensuing years.

Resolved (3), That this Council recommend a general observance of Children's Day and a devotement of the special offerings of that day to the work of this society. 1889, p. 44. Statement of, p. 153; Report on, p. 158.

Recommended by Finance Committee. 1889, p. 111.

(See also Benevolent Societies, section Consolidation.)

Congregational Quarterly

Resolved, That the publishing committee be directed to consider the expediency of reviving, in the cheapest available form, and containing biographical, bibliographical, statistical, and denominational essays, notes, and news, on a basis of absolute catholicity and fraternity, so that it may be indispensable to all and offensive to none, the *Congregational Quarterly.*

Resolved, That should that committee find it expedient to do so, they are authorized thus to revive the same, it being understood, however, that no pecuniary responsibility for the same shall, under any circumstances, attach to the Council. 1886, p. 37.

Resolved, That we will welcome the establishment of a Congregational quarterly, with the understanding that the Council assume no pecuniary responsibility in the publication. 1889, pp. 38, 111.

Congregational Sunday School Extension Society

(This corporation was organized in 1918 consequent upon the action of the National Council in 1915 and 1917.) It took over the Sunday School work of the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society, whose name was changed to the Congregational Publishing Society.

Report on: 1919, p. 327; 1921, p. 214; 1923, p. 110; 1925, p. 212.

(See section on Consolidation under Benevolent Societies.)

Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society

(See Congregational Publishing Society.)

Congregational Union of England and Wales

The Congregational churches of the United States, in council assembled, earnestly respond to the invitation of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, brought to us by their honorary secretary, Rev. Alexander Hannay, to unite with them in the celebration of the approaching jubilee of their union, and to participate with them in the discussion of themes of great and common concernment. We also recognize with gratefulness to God and sacred pride, the fact that the two great confederations of Congregational churches, though separated by the ocean, are nevertheless one in the bonds of a peculiar Christian fellowship, and in their profound reverence for the memory of our common ecclesiastical genesis and ancestry. And having appointed messengers to bear back to our Christian kindred beyond the sea our fraternal greetings and assurance of this existing fellowship, we heartily concur in the hope expressed that, at an early day, there may be secured an International Congregational Conference to promote the general weal of the churches of our faith and order in all parts of the world, to the end that in this age of matchless opportunity and infinite inducement the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour may be the more worthily advanced.

(See also International Council.)

Congregational World Movement

(See also Interchurch World Movement.)

The following recommendations of the Commission on Missions were adopted:

1. That a program be presented to the Council calling for the raising of $50,000,000 as a minimum on a five-year program.

2. That the details of the program and all amendments as suggested in the Commission's report be referred to the Tercentenary Program Commission* of twenty-five members named by the Commission on Missions, the same to be the nucleus of a Commission which shall have in charge the formulation and execution of a plan for a great forward movement along the lines suggested, this committee of twenty-five to be instructed to enlarge its numbers by inviting ten nominations from the National Mission Boards and a nomination from the Board of Directors of each state conference having more than 5,000 members, one additional being named for each additional 25,000 members or major fraction thereof.

3. The projection by this Commission of a comprehensive survey of our denominational fields of labor, showing in detail the specific needs of men and money for the purpose of securing a solid basis for a plan of advance.

4. The formulation by this Commission of a five-year program of effort which shall include all our common undertakings —missionary, educational, social and evangelistic, a central feature of which program shall be a united denominational budget

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*To be known hereafter as Commission on Congregational World Movement.

of annual expenditure to be provided by an Every Member Canvass, and which in the aggregate shall call for the raising of a minimum of $50,000,000 divided as the need shall appear.

Ample provision shall be made in the program for development of the educational and spiritual forces of which gifts of money are simply the visible expression. It will also be recognized as fundamental that our local churches shall be aided in every feasible way to secure an equipment, maintain a staff, and conduct activities adequate to the demands of our time.

5. In addition to the above the following elements should be included in such program:

(a) A Program of Prayer, with an urgent call to our entire fellowship to unite in specific petition for the ongoing of the Kingdom through this program.

(b) A Program of Christian Work, including (1) evangelism; (2) religious education; (3) church extension; (4) community service; (5) world service through foreign missionary activities.

(c) A Campaign of Enlistment in Christian life work, including (1) the ministry; (2) missionary service; (3) church assistants; (4) miscellaneous religious work.

(d) A Campaign of Stewardship seeking the commitment of Congregational Christians to the principle and practice of the trusteeship of all we are and have.

6. The creation by the Commission of a simple but adequate organization for the execution of the plan together with a method for meeting the costs of such execution. It is the judgment of your Commission that such costs should be a first charge upon the united budget and that they should not exceed two per cent of the total.

7. Close co-operation at all points with the Inter-church World Movement, supplementary features special to our own denomination being provided as needed.

8. The Tercentenary Program Committee above named to be empowered to take all necessary steps for getting the contemplated survey under way and to prepare a plan of action for submission to the full Commission when it is called together.

9. That the Inter-church World Movement be heartily endorsed, that the Mission Boards of the denomination be asked to co-operate with it, and that our Tercentenary Program Commission be instructed to carry forward its task in close relationship to the Movement's plans.

10. That the Council, recognizing that a campaign of such magnitude will require an unusual initial expense, recommends

to our Mission Boards that they underwrite the Inter-church World Movement and the plans of promotion adopted by the Commission just appointed up to a total of six per cent of the aggregate budget adopted, the same to be divided as the commission shall decide. It is understood that the portion assigned to the Inter-church World Movement is to be secured by that body from special gifts made to its treasury and that the portion used by the commission for the promotion of its work shall be a first charge pro rata against receipts secured under the plan of campaign proposed.

11. That the Commission on Missions be asked to print the recommendations as amended and adopted.

The following recommendation of the Commission on Missions was referred to the Tercentenary Program Commission:

That $30,000,000 of the proposed fund be raised as a national denominational budget through national denominational agencies and include amounts which have been raised or shall be raised for the Pilgrim Memorial Fund, for which a total of $8,000,000 is hoped, and enlarged contributions from the churches for the Mission Boards; the remaining $20,000,000 to be raised for our educational institutions as an integral part of the general effort. 1919, pp. 27-30.

An open letter from Rev. Edwin H. Byington of Massachusetts, suggesting a plan to co-ordinate the work of the Congregational World Movement, was presented and referred to the Business Committee. 1921, p. 364.

Rev. Herman F. Swartz of New York presented the report of the Congregational World Movement which was accepted. (See p. 108. 1921, p. 368.)

The Commission on Missions recommend that for the continuation of the five-year program of denominational effort adopted at Grand Rapids, along such lines as changed conditions and the experience of the past two years have shown to be feasible and wise, and for the work hitherto conducted by the Commission on Missions, the Council amend the article of the By-Laws on the Commission on Missions to read as follows: (See Article XI of the By-laws. 1921, p. 369.)

Voted: That the Commission on the Congregational World Movement be instructed to transfer to the Commission on Missions the executive organization now maintained by the Commission on the Congregational World Movement, together with its property, and also the undistributed funds in the hands of the Commission on the Congregational World Movement, at the date on which the transfer is made; and further that the Commission on Missions assume the obligations standing against the

Commission on the Congregational World Movement at the date of the transfer.

Voted further that this transfer be made on or before November first nineteen hundred and twenty-one.

Voted: That upon the completion of this transfer the Commission on the Congregational World Movement be discharged. 1921, pp. 378, 379.

Voted: That the Commission on the Congregational World Movement be continued until the transfer of its work to the Commission on Missions is accomplished. 1921, p. 389.

Report on: 1921, p. 108.

The Moderator read the following telegram from the President of the United States:

Washington, D. C.,
October 17, 5:45 P. M.

Rev. Rockwell Harmon Potter,
Moderator National Council of Congregational Churches,
Springfield, Mass.

Please convey my thanks to the Council for honoring me with the office of Honorary Moderator. The strength of religion is the strength of the State. Your devotion to the cause of righteousness is a guarantee of the permanent security of our institutions.

CALVIN COOLIDGE. 1923, p. 201.

We esteem it a blessing to our country that Calvin Coolidge, who in the order of Divine Providence has come to the Presidency of our Nation, is a man of integrity, courage, and Christian faith. We shall not fail to give him our confidence, and we will support him by our sympathies and our prayers. 1923, p. 233.

Address before the Council: 1925, p. 71.

Constitution and By-Laws

COMMITTEE ON, APPOINTED

The following persons were chosen by ballot to prepare the draft of the proposed constitution: Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, Massachusetts; Rev. Prof. William E. Merriman, Wisconsin; Rev. Prof. Samuel C. Bartlett, Illinois; Major-General Oliver O. Howard, District of Columbia; Deacon Samuel Holmes, New Jersey; Rev. William Ives Budington, New York; Mr. Amos C. Barstow, Rhode Island. 1871, p. 12.

The Committee on Constitution reported. It was *voted,* That the constitution be acted upon by paragraphs.

It was *voted,* That the consideration of the name be deferred until the other parts of the constitution have been considered.

The constitution was taken up, and the first three paragraphs, amended by omitting the name, were adopted.

The fourth paragraph (relating to faith) was amended by inserting the word ''infallible'' after the word ''only,'' and the word ''religious'' before the word ''faith,'' and the words ''of our Lord'' before ''1865.'' 1871, p. 24. See p. 11.

A proposal to change the name to ''The Congregational Union of the United States'' was rejected. 1895, p. 13.

DECLARATION ON THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH

This declaration was presented by the committee: Rev. Leonard Bacon, Connecticut; Rev. Truman M. Post, Missouri; Mr. Charles B. Lines, Kansas.

The members of the National Council, representing the Congregational churches of the United States, avail themselves of this opportunity to renew their previous declarations of faith in the unity of the church of God.

While affirming the liberty of our churches, as taught in the New Testament, and inherited by us from our fathers and from martyrs and confessors of foregoing ages, we adhere to this liberty all the more as affording the ground and hope of a more visible unity in time to come. We desire and purpose to co-operate with all the churches of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the expression of the same catholic sentiments solemnly avowed by the Council of 1865, on the Burial Hill at Plymouth, we wish, at this new epoch of our history, to remove, so far as in us lies, all causes of suspicion and alienation, and to promote the growing unity of counsel and of effort among the followers of Christ. To us, as to our brethren, ''there is one body and one spirit, even as we are called in one hope of our calling.''

As little as did our fathers in their day, do we in ours make a pretension to be the only churches of Christ. We find ourselves consulting and acting together under the distinctive name of Congregationalists, because, in the present condition of our common Christianity, we have felt ourselves called to ascertain and do our own appropriate part of the work of Christ's church among men.

We especially desire, in prosecuting the common work of evangelizing our own land and the world, to observe the common and sacred law, that in the wide field of the world's evangelization we do our work in friendly co-operation with all those who love and serve our common Lord.

We believe in ''the holy catholic church.'' It is our prayer and endeavor that the unity of the church may be more and more apparent, and that the prayer of our Lord for his disciples may be speedily and completely answered, and all be one; that by consequence of this Christian unity in love the world may believe in Christ as sent of the Father to save the world. 1871, p. 36.

AMENDMENTS TO

The Constitution and By-Laws of the National Council as adopted at Oberlin, Ohio, 1871, and the amendments which were made at succeeding sessions of the Council:—

The Constitution, with the word "Council" inserted in the blanks for the name, was read, and was unanimously adopted as a whole, and the assistant registrars were directed to divide it by sections. It is as follows:—

THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
1871-1913

Note: The text as adopted in 1871 *is shown in Roman type. Words in brackets were omitted later by amendment. Words in italics were added by amendment. Words in caps show amendments to amendments. The year of each amendment is given in parenthesis. Amendments are here shown to and including the meeting of* 1910. *In* 1913 *the document was completely redrafted under the Commission of Nineteen,* (*which see*) *and this document with later revisions is printed in full on pages* 126-142).

The Congregational churches of the United States, by elders and messengers assembled, do now associate themselves in National Council:—

OBJECT

To express and foster their substantial unity in doctrine, polity, and work; and

To consult upon the common interests of all the churches, their duties in the work of evangelization, the united development of their resources, and their relations to all parts of the kingdom of Christ.

BASIS OF BELIEF

They agree in belief that the Holy Scriptures are the sufficient and only infallible rule of religious faith and practice; their interpretation thereof being in substantial accordance with the great doctrines of the Christian faith, commonly called evangelical, held in our churches from the early times, and sufficiently set forth by former general councils.

They agree in belief that the right of government resides in local churches, or congregations of believers, who are responsible directly to the Lord Jesus Christ, the One Head of the church universal and of all particular churches; but that all churches, being in communion one with another as parts of Christ's catholic church, have mutual duties subsisting in the obligations of fellowship.

The churches, therefore, while establishing this National Council for the furtherance of the common interests and work of all the churches, do maintain the Scriptural and inalienable right of each church to self-government and administation; and this National Council shall never exercise legislative or judicial authority, nor consent to act as a council of reference.

And for the convenience of orderly consultation, they establish the following

RULES

I. *Sessions.*—The churches will meet in National Council every third year. They shall also be convened in special session whenever any five of the general state organizations shall so request.

II. *Representation.*—The churches shall be represented at each session by delegates, either ministers or laymen, appointed in number and manner as follows:—

1. The churches, assembled in their local organizations, appoint one delegate for every ten churches in their respective organizations, and one for a fraction of ten greater than one-half, it being understood that wherever the churches of any state are directly united in a general organization they may, at their option, appoint the delegates in such body, instead of in local organizations, but in the above ratio of churches so united.

2. In addition to the above, the churches united in state organization appoint by such body one delegate, and one for each ten thousand communicants in their fellowship, and one for a major fraction thereof.

3. It being recommended that the number of delegates be, in all cases, divided between ministers and laymen as nearly equally as is practicable. *Each state or local organization may provide in its own way for filling vacancies in its delegation.* (1889)

4. Such Congregational general societies for Christian work, [and the faculties of such theological seminaries,] (1895) as may be recognized by this Council, *and the faculties of Congregational theological seminaries and colleges.* (1895) may be represented by one delegate each, [such representatives having the right of discussion only.] (1901)

III. *Officers.*—1. At the beginning of every stated or special session there shall be chosen by ballot, from those present as members, a moderator and one or more assistant moderators, to preside over its deliberations. *The moderator is expected to open the Council immediately following the one at which he is elected with an address on a subject selected by himself.* (1901)

2. At each triennial session there shall be chosen by ballot a secretary, a registrar, and a treasurer, to serve from the close of such session to the close of the next triennial session.

3. The secretary shall receive communications for the Council, conduct correspondence, and collect such facts, and superintend such publications as may from time to time be ordered.

4. The registrar shall make and preserve the records of the proceedings of the Council; and for his aid one or more assistants shall be chosen at each session to serve during such session.

5. The treasurer shall do the work ordinarily belonging to such office.

6. At each triennial session there shall be chosen a provisional committee, who shall make needful arrangements for the next triennial session, and for any session called during the interval.

7. Committees shall be appointed, and in such manner, as may from time to time be ordered.

8. Any member of a church in fellowship may be chosen to the office of secretary, registrar, or treasurer; and such officers [as are not delegates shall have all the privileges of members except that of voting,] *shall be enrolled as members of the Council.* (1895)

IV. *By-Laws.*—The Council may make and alter By-Laws at any triennial session.

V. *Amendments.*—This constitution shall not be altered or amended, except at a triennial session and by a two-thirds vote, notice thereof having been given at a previous triennial session, or the proposed alteration having been requested by some general state organization of churches, and published with the notification of the session.

BY-LAWS

I. In all its official acts and records this body shall be designated as THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES OF THE UNITED STATES.

II. "It shall be understood that the term to which delegates to the Council are appointed expires with each session, triennial or special, to which they are chosen."

III. *Statistical secretaries of state and territorial bodies, ministers serving the churches entertaining the Council,* THE RE-

TIRING MODERATOR (1889) AND ASSISTANT MODERATOR (1907) AND FORMER MODERATORS (1898) AND ASSISTANT MODERATORS (1907) *and persons selected as preachers, or to prepare papers, or to serve upon committees chosen by this body,* AND MISSIONARIES IN THE SERVICE OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS, (1892) *shall be entitled to* [seats] ALL THE PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERS (1886) *in the session in which they are to serve without the privilege of voting.* (1883)

IV. iii. The term "Congregational," as applied to the general benevolent societies in connection with representation in this body, is understood in the broad sense of societies whose constituency and control are substantially Congregational.

V. [The provisional committee shall consist of seven persons by appointment, [*two of whom shall have been members of the last previous provisional committee*] (1886 and 1889) with the addition of the secretary, registrar and treasurer, ex officiis, *of whom four shall be a quorum.* (1883). This committee shall specify the place and the precise time at which sessions shall commence; shall choose a preacher of the opening sermon; may select topics regarding the Christian work of the churches, and persons to propose and present papers thereon; shall do any work which shall have been referred to them by the Council; *shall name a place and time for the next triennial Council,* (1883) and shall make a full report of all their doings, the consideration of which shall be first in order of business after organization.] (Amended in 1889 to read)

V. The provisional committee shall consist of [ten] *eleven* (1892) persons, *the moderator,* the secretary, the registrar, and the treasurer, ex officiis, and seven others, chosen by the Council, including two members of the last previous committee; and four shall be a quorum. They shall specify the place and precise time at which each session shall begin; shall choose a preacher; may select topics regarding the Christian work of the churches, and persons to *prepare and present* papers thereon; shall do any work referred to them by the Council; may fill any vacancy occurring *in their own number or* (1895 and 1898) in any committee or office in the intervals of sessions, the persons so appointed to serve until the next session; *shall have authority to contract for all necessary expenditures,* EXCEPT SUCH AS ARE REQUIRED TO BE MADE BY THE PUBLISHING COMMITTEE *and to appoint* [*from their number, other than officers, a finance committee of three, residing in Boston or its vicinity*] *one of their number* (1898) *who shall approve and sign all bills for payment; shall appoint any committee ordered but not appointed, and committees so appointed shall be entered* *in the Minutes as by action of the Council* (1898); shall consult the interests of the Council, and act for it in said intervals, subject to the revision of the Council; and shall make a full report of all their doings, the consideration of which shall be first in order of business after organization.

[XVI. The provisional committee] *They* (1898) shall lay out a definite program for the Council, assigning a distinct time, not to be changed except in special emergencies, to

(1) The papers appointed to be read before the Council.

(2) The standing and ad interim committees appointed by Council to report at the next, who may present the topics referred to them for discussion or action.

(3) The benevolent societies and theological seminaries, when each society and seminary may be heard for a specified time, not exceeding twenty minutes, by its delegates to the Council.

All other business shall be set for other specified hours, and shall not displace the regular order except by special vote of the Council. (1889)

VI. v. The sessions shall ordinarily be held in the latter part of October or the early part of November.

VII. vi. The call for any session shall be signed by the chairman of the provisional committee and the secretary of the Council, and it shall contain a list of topics proposed by the committee; and the secretary shall seasonably furnish blank credentials, and other needful papers, to the scribes of the several local organizations of churches.

VIII. vii. [Soon after the opening of a stated or special session, the following committees shall be appointed:—]

Immediately after the organization of the Council, the committee on nominations shall name to the body the following committees.

1. A committee, *including the secretary,* (1898) on credentials who shall prepare a roll of members.

[2. *A committee of nominations, to nominate all committees not otherwise provided for.* (1883)] (1889)

2. *And at their convenience they shall name to the Council* (1889) *a publishing committee of five, including the secretary, registrar, and treasurer, who shall* SEEK BIDS (1898), *contract for and distribute all publications ordered by the Council.* (1883)

3. A business committee, to propose a docket for the use of the members. Except by special vote of the Council, no business

shall be introduced which has not thus passed through the hands of this committee.

4. *A finance committee.* (1883)

[5. *A committee on each of the national Congregational societies, to which severally may be referred any statements from, and any communications relating to, said societies.* (1883)] (1892)

[6. *A committee on the Congregational theological seminaries, to which may be referred any statements from, and any communications relating to, said seminaries.* (1883)] (1892)

Committees shall be composed of three persons each, except otherwise ordered. *The first named member of each standing or ad interim committee shall be chairman thereof, and shall so continue unless the committee shall otherwise provide at a meeting of which every member shall have been informed.* (1892) *Honorary members shall be eligible to serve on special committees at the session, and any member of any Congregational church connected with the Council shall be eligible to appointment upon any committee to serve after the close of the session.* (1889)

IX. In the sessions of the National Council, half an hour shall every morning be given to devotional services, and the daily sessions shall be opened with prayer and closed with prayer or singing. [One evening at least shall be entirely set apart for a meeting of prayer and conference, and] (1883) Every *morning and* (1898) evening shall [ordinarily] (1898) be given to meetings of a specifically religious, rather than business character. [And the Council will join in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper at some convenient season. *The afternoon and evening of Saturday and the evening of the Sabbath shall be assigned to hearing from such Congregational general societies as may be recognized by this Council, the time to be equitably divided between them, and no other portion of the time of the Council is to be occupied by them.* (1883)] (1886)

X. *No person shall occupy more than* [one] *three-quarters of an* (1886) *hour in reading any paper or report; no speaker upon any motion or resolution, or any paper read shall occupy more than ten minutes,* (1886) *without the unanimous consent of the Council.* (1877)

XI. ix. An auditor of accounts shall be appointed at every session.

[XII. x. The provisional committee may fill any vacancies occurring in any committee or office in the intervals of sessions, the person so appointed to serve until the next session.] (1889)

XII. xi. The Council approves of an annual compilation of the statistics of the churches, and of a list of such ministers as are reported by the several state organizations. And the secretary is directed to present at each triennial session comprehensive and comparative summaries for the three years preceding.

XIII. The Council [will welcome correspondence by interchange of delegates] *as occasion may arise will hold communication* (1886) with the general Congregational bodies of other lands, and with the general ecclesiastical organizations of other churches of evangelical faith in our land, *by delegates appointed by the Council, or by the provisional committee.* [Delegates will be appointed by the Council in the years of its session, and by the provisional committee in the intervening years.] (1886)

XIV. *The presiding officers shall retain their offices until their successors are chosen; and the presiding moderator, at the opening of the session [subsequent to the one at which he was elected, shall name the nominating committee, the business committee, and the committee on credentials; and he shall be an honorary member of the Council.* (1886)] *shall take the chair, and the secretary shall at once collect the credentials of delegates present, and shall read the names of persons representing bodies already in affiliation with the Council, who shall prima facie be the constituency of the same for immediate organization and business. The moderator shall then name the committee on nominations, and the Council shall at once proceed to the election of its presiding officers.* (1889) *In the absence of the moderator and the assistant moderators the provisional committee be authorized to appoint some person to act as moderator of the opening session of the Council.* (1898)

XV. [*Statements from the general benevolent societies and the theological seminaries and reports from the standing and ad interim committees shall be in print, and five hundred or more copies of each shall be placed in the hands of the secretary at least two weeks prior to the next meeting of the Council, and it shall be the duty of the secretary to send promptly to each member elect a copy of each of said statements and reports.* (1889)] (1892)

Such reports from committees and statements from societies and theological seminaries as may be furnished to the secretary seasonably in advance of the session may be printed at the discretion of the publishing committee and sent to the members elect, together with the program prepared by the provisional committee. (1892) *Not more than ten minutes shall be given to the reading of any [special]* SUCH (1898) *report.* (1895)

XVI. *Reports and statements shall not be referred to committees except by vote of the Council.* (1889)

RULES OF ORDER

The rules of order shall be those found in common parliamentary use, not modified by local legislative practice, with the following explicit modifications:—

1. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received except the following, namely: to amend, to commit, to postpone to a time certain, to postpone indefinitely, to lay on the table, and to adjourn—which shall have precedence in the reverse order of this list—the motions to lay on the table and to adjourn, alone, being not debatable. *But the Council at any time, on the motion of one member, seconded by five other members, and by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, may order a vote to be taken on the pending question; after this is so ordered, the debate may not be cut off for one half hour, provided any member desires to speak, but during that time no member shall speak more than five minutes.* (1886)

2. No member shall speak more than twice to the merits of any question in debate, except by special permission of the body, nor more than once until every member desiring to speak shall have spoken.

3. *"Ordinarily, voting shall be viva voce or by show of hands, but any member may call for a division, in which case the number voting on each side shall be counted, announced by the chair, entered in the Minutes, and published in the printed reports of the proceedings."* (1886)

4. *If the report of a committee contains nothing more than matters of fact for information, or matters of argument for the consideration of the Council, the question is, "Shall the report be accepted?" and that question, unless superseded by a motion to reject, to recommit, to postpone, or to lay upon the table, shall be taken without debate. Such a report, if accepted, is placed upon the files of the Council, but not being an act of the Council, is not entered on the Minutes.*

(a) *If the report is in the form of a vote or resolution, or of a declaration expressing the judgment or testimony of the Council, the additional question arises, "Shall the report be adopted?" and motions for amendment are in order. Such a report, if adopted with or without amendment, is the act of the Council, and is entered on the Minutes.*

(b) *If the report gives the views of the committee on the matter referred to them, and terminates with the form of a resolution or declaration in the name of the Council, the questions are, "Shall the report be accepted?" and "Shall the resolution or declaration be adopted?" and while the report at large, if accepted, is placed on file, that part of it which has become the act of the Council is entered on the Minutes.* (1883)

Constitution and By-Laws as Drafted in 1913 With Amendments to 1929

For meaning of italics, etc., see preceding section.

The Congregational Churches of the United States, by delegates in National Council assembled, reserving all the rights and cherished memories belonging to this organization under its former constitution, and declaring the steadfast allegiance of the churches composing the Council to the faith which our fathers confessed, which from age to age has found its expression in the historic creeds of the Church universal and of this communion, and affirming our loyalty to the basic principles of our representative democracy, hereby set forth the things most surely believed among us concerning faith, polity, and fellowship:

Faith

We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, goodness and love; and in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord and Savior, who for us and our salvation lived and died and rose again and liveth evermore; and in the Holy Spirit, who taketh of the things of Christ and revealeth them to us, renewing, comforting, and inspiring the souls of men. We are united in striving to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures, and to our purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord, made known or to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church of Christ to proclaim the gospel to all mankind, exalting the worship of the one true God and laboring for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, and the realization of human brotherhood. Depending, as did our fathers, upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth, we work and pray for the transformation of the world into the kingdom of God; and we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness and the life everlasting.

Polity

We believe in the freedom and responsibility of the individual soul, and the right of private judgment. We hold to the autonomy of the local church and its independence of all ecclesiastical control. We cherish the fellowship of the churches, united in district, state, and national bodies, for council and co-operation in matters of common concern.

The Wider Fellowship

While affirming the liberty of our churches, and the validity of our ministry, we hold to the unity and catholicity of the Church of Christ, and will unite with all its branches in hearty co-operation; and will earnestly seek, so far as in us lies, that the prayer of our Lord for his disciples may be answered, that they all may be one.

United in support of these principles, the Congregational Churches in National Council assembled agree in the adoption of the following Constitution:

Article I.—Name

The name of this body is the National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States.

Article II.—Purpose

The purpose of the National Council is to foster and express the substantial unity of the Congregational churches in faith, polity, and work; to consult upon and devise measures and maintain agencies for the promotion of their common interests; to co-operate with any corporation or body under control of or affiliated with the Congregational churches or any of them; and to do and to promote the work of the Congregational churches of the United States in their national, international, and interdenominational relations.

Article III.—Members

1. **Delegates.** (a) The churches in each District Association shall be represented by one delegate. Each association having more than ten churches shall be entitled to elect one additional delegate for each ten churches or major fraction (*i. e., six or more*) (1927) thereof. The churches in each State Conference shall be represented by [one] *two* (1927) delegates, *one of whom shall be a woman.* (1927) Each conference having churches whose aggregate membership is more than ten thousand shall be entitled to elect (one) *two* (1927) additional delegates for each additional ten thousand members or major fraction (*i. e., 5,001 or more*) (1927) thereof, *one-half of whom shall be women* (1927) [States having associations but no conference, or vice versa, shall be entitled to their full representation.] *A state having a state organization but no district organizations, or a state having district organizations but no state organization may send delegates on the dual basis of one for every ten churches and two for every ten thousand members, as above set forth.* (1927)

(b) Delegates shall be divided, as nearly equally as practicable, between ministers and laymen.

(c) The Secretary and the Treasurer shall be members, ex officiis, of the Council.

(d) Any delegate who shall remove *his residence* (1927) from the *geographical* (1927) bounds of the conference or association by which he has been elected to the Council shall be deemed by the fact of that removal to have resigned his membership in the Council, and the conference or association may proceed to fill the unexpired term by election.

2. **Honorary Members.** Former moderators, *associate moderators* (1927) and assistant moderators of the Council, ministers serving the churches entertaining the Council, persons selected as preachers or to prepare papers, or to serve upon committees or commissions chosen by the Council, missionaries present who are in the service of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions and have been not less than seven years in that service, [*persons appointed by national missionary boards as corporate members, executive officials of such boards*] (1927) *executive officers of national missionary societies whose scope of responsibility is co-extensive with the nation,* (1927) together with one delegate each from such theological seminaries and colleges as are recognized by the Council, may be enrolled as honorary members and shall be entitled to all privileges of members in the meeting of the Council except those of voting and initiation of business. *Any person appointed by a national missionary society as a corporate member shall have the right to the floor when matters affecting that Society are under discussion.* (1927)

3. **Corresponding Members.** The Council shall not increase its own voting membership, but members of other denominations, present by invitation or representing their denominations, representatives of Congregational bodies in other lands, and other persons present who represent important interests, or have rendered distinguished services, may by vote, be made corresponding members, and entitled to the courtesy of the floor.

[4. **Vacancies and Alternates.** Each state or district organization may provide in its own way for filling vacancies in its delegation. In the absence of any special rule on the part of such state or district body, the Council will recognize the right of the delegates present to fill vacancies in their own delegation.

An alternate or substitute enrolled as a member of the Council and certified to the societies for membership therein shall be thereafter deemed a member instead of the primary delegate for the term for which that delegate was elected.] (1917)

4. **Term of Membership.** [At its stated meeting in 1915, the National Council will divide all delegates, unless they shall have been so divided by the bodies electing them, into two classes, to serve respectively for two and four years. Thereafter the term of delegates shall be four years.] (1917) *The term of delegates shall be four years. Elections to fill vacancies shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term.* (1917)

The term of a member shall begin at the opening of the next stated meeting of the Council after his election, and shall expire with the opening of the second stated meeting of the Council thereafter. He shall be a member of any intervening meeting of the Council.

(Sections 5-9 were transferred to the Constitution from the Bylaws in 1927 where they had been numbered respectively XXII, XIX, XX, XXI and XVIII.)

5. **Alternates.** *Appointing bodies may elect alternates,* (1927) *and any alternate specifically designated by an appointing body, who may be present and seated at any Council meeting in the absence of his principal, becomes the regular delegate of that body, displacing the principal first appointed.* (1917)

6. **Election of Non-Residents.** *While removal from the bounds of the appointing body causes forfeiture of membership in the Council, this fact shall not be construed as forbidding the election of non-residents by an appointing body.* (1917)

7. **Filling Vacancies.** *Each appointing body may, at its discretion designate the method of filling vacancies in its delegations. Unless other method has been adopted, the Council will recognize such substitutes from Conference or Association as may be designated by the remaining delegates from such Conference or Association or (in the absence of such designation) by the total delegation from within the bounds of the state concerned, these substitutes to be certified to the Credentials Committee by certificate of a chairman chosen by such delegates.* (1917)

Provided, however, that in case of the formal resignation of a Principal and his Alternate before the opening day of the Council, a regular delegate may be elected, by such method as each Conference or Association may adopt, to whom shall be given usual credentials and he shall be enrolled as other regular delegates. (1921)

No substitute shall be enrolled within twenty-four hours after the opening of any meeting of the council, nor within forty-eight hours except upon assurance of an actual vacancy. (1925)

8. **Term of Substitutes.** *Persons designated to fill vacancies under Section 7 shall continue in office only for the meeting of the Council for which the designation is made.* (1917)

9. **Temporary Substitution.** *A duly enrolled delegate may deputize any alternate duly appointed by the body appointing the delegate to*

act for him at any session of the Council by special designation applicable to the session in question. (1915)

Article IV.—The Corporation of the National Council

(This Article was By-law XII previous to 1927)

1. [The corporate members of the Corporation shall consist of [fourteen] [*fifteen* (1917)] *fourteen* (1921) persons elected by the Council at stated meetings and of the Moderator and Secretary, associated *ex-officiis* with them.] (1923)

1. *The Corporation for the National Council shall consist, after the meeting of the Council in 1925, of fifteen persons, elected by the Council, and of the Moderator and Secretary ex officio.* (1923)

2. The terms for which corporate members are elected shall be six [*four* (1921)] years, *except that the Council, or its Executive Committee between Councils may fill vacancies for the unexpired term.* (1923)

Provided, however, that the Council of 1925 shall elect five members for two years, five members for four years, and five members for six years. In electing the six-year members in 1925 and biennially thereafter at least two of the persons so elected shall be persons not then members of the Corporation. (1923)

3. [The corporate members elected at the meeting of 1910 are divided into two classes of eight and seven respectively. The successors of the class of eight shall be chosen at the meeting of 1913 and of the class of seven at the meeting of 1915. Those so elected shall hold office until their successors are duly elected.] (1921)

3. The Corporation shall have a treasurer. He shall administer his office as the by-laws of the corporation may provide.

4. The Corporation shall have power to receive and hold [all] *any* (1927) property, real and personal of the Council, and all property, real and personal, which may be conveyed to it in trust, or otherwise, for the benefit of Congregational churches or of any Congregational church, or *for other purposes approved by the Corporation within the scope of its charter;* (1927) and acting for the Council between the meetings of the Council in all business matters not otherwise delegated or reserved, shall do such acts and discharge such trusts as properly belong to such a corporation and are in conformity [to] *with* (1927) the constitution, rules, and instructions of the Council.

5. The Corporation may adopt for its government and the management of its affairs standing by-laws and rules not inconsistent with its charter nor with the constitution, by-laws, and rules of the Council.

6. The corporation shall make such reports to the Council as the Council may require.

Article [IV] (1927) V.—Meetings

1. **Stated Meetings.** The churches shall meet in National Council once in two years, the time and place of meeting to be announced at least six months previous to the meeting.

2. **Special Meetings.** The National Council shall convene in special meeting whenever any seven of the general state organizations so request.

3. **Quorum.** Delegates present from a majority of the states entitled to representation in the Council shall constitute a quorum.

Article [V] (1927) VI.—By-Laws

The Council may make and alter By-Laws at any stated meeting by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting; provided, that no new By-Laws shall be enacted and no By-Laws altered or repealed on the day on which the change is proposed.

Article [VI] (1927) VII.—Amendments

This Constitution shall not be altered or amended, except at a stated meeting and by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, notice thereof having been given at a previous stated meeting, or the proposed alteration having been requested by some general state organization of churches entitled to representation in the Council, and published with the notification of the meeting.

By-Laws

I.—The Call of a Meeting of the Council

1. The call for any meeting shall be issued by the Executive Committee and signed by their chairman and by the Secretary of the Council. It shall contain a list of topics proposed for consideration at the meeting. The Secretary shall seasonably furnish blank credentials and other needful papers to the scribes of the several districts and state organizations of the churches entitled to representation in the Council.

2. The meetings shall ordinarily be held in the [latter part of October] (1925) *spring or early summer.*

II.—The Formation of the Roll

Immediately after the call to order the Secretary shall collect the credentials of delegates present, and these persons shall be prima facie the voting membership for purposes of immediate organization. Contested delegations shall not delay the permanent organizations, but shall be referred to the Committee on Credentials, all contested delegations refraining from voting until their contest is settled.

III.—The Moderator

1. At each stated meeting of the Council there shall be chosen from among the members of the Council a Moderator *and an Associate Moderator, one of whom shall be a layman* (1925) [and a First and Second Assistant Moderator, [*one of whom shall be a layman*] (1925) who shall hold office for two years or until their successors are elected and qualified.] (1927) *The Presidents of the National Congregational Missionary Societies shall be ex officiis Assistant Moderators. The Council may also elect from its members other Assistant Moderators as it deems advisable.* (1927)

2. [The Moderator] (1927) Immediately after [his] *the* election *of these officers the Moderator* shall take the chair, and after prayer shall [at once proceed to complete the organization of the Council and to] cause rules of order to be adopted *and proceed with the business of the Council.* (1927)

3. The representative [Function] *functions* (1925) of the Moderator *and of the Associate Moderator* (1925) shall be that of visiting

and addressing churches and associations upon their invitations and of representing the Council and the Congregational churches in the wider relations of Christian fellowship so far as [he] *they* (1925) may be able and disposed. It is understood that all [his] *their* (1925) acts and utterances [shall be devoid of authority and that for them shall be claimed and to them given only such weight and force] (1925) *have only such authority* (1925) as inheres in the reason of them.

4. The Moderator shall preside at the opening of the stated meeting of the Council following that at which he is elected, and may deliver an address on a subject of his own selection.

IV.—The Secretary

The Secretary shall keep the records and conduct the correspondence of the Council and of the Executive Committee. He shall edit the Year Book and other publications, and shall send out notices of all meetings of the Council and of its Executive Committee. He shall aid the committees and commissions of the Council and shall be Secretary of the Commission on Missions. He shall be available for advice and help in matters of polity and constructive organization, and render to the churches such services as shall be appropriate to his office. He may, like the Moderator, represent the Council and the churches in interdenominational relations. For his aid one or more assistants shall be chosen at each meeting of the Council to serve during such meeting.

V.—The Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive and hold all income contributed or raised to meet the expenses of the Council, shall disburse the same on the orders of the Executive Committee, and shall give bond in such sum as the Executive Committee shall from time to time determine.

VI.—Term of Office

The terms of office of the Secretary, Treasurer, and of any other officers not otherwise provided for shall begin [at the close of the meeting at which they are chosen and continue until the close of the next stated meeting, and until their successors are elected and qualified.] *January 1, following the meeting at which they are chosen and continue for two years and until their successors are chosen.* (1925)

VII.—Committees

[As soon as practicable after taking the chair, the Moderator shall cause to be read to the Council the names proposed by the Nominating Committee for a Business Committee and a Committee on Credentials. These names shall be chosen so as to secure representation to different parts of the country, and the names shall be published in the denominational papers at least one month before the meeting of the Council, and printed with the call of the meeting. The Council may approve these nominations or change them in whole or in part.] *At each meeting of the Council there shall be elected on nomination of the Nominating Committee a Committee on Credentials and a Business Committee for the next Council. These committees shall be so named as to secure representation from different parts of the country.* (1925)

1. **The Committee on Credentials.** The Committee on Credentials shall prepare and report as early as practicable a roll of members. Of this committee the Secretary shall be a member.

2. **The Business Committee.** The Business Committee shall consist of not less than nine members. It shall prepare a docket for the [use] *business sessions* (1927) of the Council, and subject to its approval. All business to be proposed to the Council shall first be presented to this committee, but the Council may at its pleasure consider any item of business for which such provision has been refused by the committee.

The Chairman of the Business Committee of each Council and the Chairman-elect of the following Council shall be Corresponding Members of the Program Committee. (1925)

3. **The Nominating Committee.** The Nominating Committee shall consist of nine members, to be elected by the Council on the nomination of the Moderator, and shall serve from the close of one stated meeting till the close of the following stated meeting of the Council. Five members shall be so chosen for four years, and four for two years, and thereafter members shall be chosen for four years. This committee shall nominate to the Council all officers, committees, and commissions for which the Council does not otherwise provide. But the Council may, at its pleasure, choose committees, commissions, or officers by nomination from the floor or otherwise as it shall from time to time determine. *Members of the Nominating Committee who have served for a full term shall not be eligible for re-election until after an interval of two years.* (1915)

4. **The Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee shall consist of the Moderator, *the Associate Moderator,* (1929) the Secretary, *the Treasurer,* (1929) and [nine] *twelve* (1925) other persons and shall be so chosen that the terms of the elected members shall ultimately be six years, the terms of [three) *four* (1925) members expiring at each stated meeting of the Council. *Due notice having been given all members five shall constitute a quorum, or four providing the Moderator and Secretary are both present.* (1925) *No person shall be eligible for successive reappointment on this committee.* (1919)

5. **Other Committees.** (1) Other committees may be appointed from time to time, and in such manner as the Council shall determine, to make report during the meeting at which they are appointed.

(2) On such committees any member of the Council, voting or honorary, is eligible for service.

(3) All such committees terminate their existence with the meeting at which they are appointed.

(4) No question or report will be referred to a committee except by vote of the Council.

(5) Committees shall consist of five persons unless otherwise stated, *at least two of whom shall be laymen.* (1919)

(6) Unless otherwise ordered, the first named member of a committee shall be chairman.

VIII.—The Executive Committee

(Pronouns changed from "they" to "it" throughout in 1927)

1. The Executive Committee shall transact such business as the Council shall from time to time direct, and in the intervals between meetings of the Council shall represent the Council in all matters not belonging to the corporation and not otherwise provided for. It shall have authority to contract for all necessary expenditures and to appoint one or more of its number who shall approve and sign all bills

for payment; shall consult the interests of the Council and act for it in intervals between meetings in all matters of business and finance, subject to the approval of the Council; and shall make a full report of all its doings, the consideration of which shall be first in order of business after organization.

2. It may fill any vacancy occurring in its own number or in any commission, committee or office in the intervals of meeting, the persons so appointed to serve until the next meeting of the Council.

3. It shall appoint any committees or commissions ordered by the Council, but not otherwise appointed; and committees or commissions so appointed shall be entered in the minutes as by action of the Council.

4. It shall select the place, and shall specify in the call, the place and precise time at which each meeting of the Council shall begin.

5. It shall provide a suitable form of voucher for the expenditures of the Council, and shall secure a proper auditing of its accounts.

6. It shall prepare a definite program for the Council, choosing a preacher and selecting topics for discussion and persons to prepare and present papers thereon.

7. It shall assign a distinct time, not to be changed except by special vote of the Council, for

(a) The papers appointed to be read before the Council.

(b) The commissions appointed by one Council to report at the next, which may present the topics referred to them for discussion or action.

(c) The benevolent societies and theological seminaries.

All other business shall be set for other specified hours, and shall not displace the regular order, except by special vote of the Council.

IX.—Commissions

1. Special committees appointed to act ad interim, other than the Executive Committee and Nominating Committee, shall be designated as commissions.

2. Commissions are expected to report at the next meeting following their appointment, and no commission other than the Commission on Missions *and those designated by the Council as permanent Commissions* (1925) shall continue beyond the next stated meeting of the Council except by special vote of the Council.

3. No commission shall incur expense except as authorized by the Council, or its Executive Committee.

4. Any member in good standing of a Congregational church is eligible for services on any commission or ad interim committee.

5. Commissions shall choose their own chairman, but the first named member shall call the first meeting and act as temporary chairman during the organization of the commission.

6. *At least* [*one-half*] *one-third* (1925) *of the members of every continued commission shall be persons who have not been members of it for the preceding term, and at least one-third of the members of every commission shall be laymen.* (1919)

7. *There shall be in each biennium at least one meeting of Chairmen of Commissions with the Executive Committee of the National*

Council, at which time reports of progress from each Commission shall be made to the Executive Committee and plans pursued under its general direction, except when the powers of the Commissions are already defined by the Council. (1923)

X.—Congregational National Societies

With the consent of our National Missionary Societies, whose approval is a necessary preliminary, *and whose constitutional right to withdraw such consent by due process is recognized,* (1927) the following shall define the relation of these societies to the National Council.

The foreign missionary work of the Congregational churches of the United States shall be carried on under the auspices of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions; [and the co-operating Woman's Boards of Missions] (1927); and the home missionary work of these churches, for the present under the auspices of the Congregational Home Missionary Society, the American Missionary Association, the Congregational Education Society, the Congregational Church Building Society, [the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society] *the Congregational Sunday-School Extension Society and the Congregational Publishing Society* (1927) [and the Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief] (1915) hereinafter called the Home Societies, [and the Woman's Missionary Federation.] (1927)

1. **The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.** This Board shall be the agency of the Congregational churches for the extension of Christ's kingdom abroad.

a. *Membership.* The voting membership of the American Board shall consist, in addition to the present life members, of two classes of persons. (a) One class shall be composed of the members of the National Council, who shall be deemed nominated as corporate members of the American Board by their election and certification as members of the said National Council, said nominations to be ratified and the persons so named elected by the American Board. Their terms as corporate members of the American Board shall end, in each case, when they cease to be members of the National Council. (b) There may also be chosen by the American Board [one hundred and fifty] *two hundred and twenty-five* (1925) corporate members-at-large, *at least one-third of whom shall be women.* (1927) The said [150] *two hundred and twenty-five* (1925) corporate members-at-large shall be chosen in [three] *two* equal sections, and so chosen that the term of each section shall be ultimately [six] *four* (1927) years, one section being chosen every second year at the meeting in connection with the meeting of the National Council. No new voting members, other than herein provided, shall be created.

b. *Officers and Committees.* The officers and committees of the American Board shall be such as the Board itself may from time to time determine.

c. *Meetings.* Regular meetings of the American Board shall be held annually. That falling in the same year in which the National Council holds its meetings shall be held in connection with the meeting of said Council. Meetings in other years shall be held at such time and place as the Board may determine. Important business, especially such as involves extensive modifications of policy, shall, so far as possible, be reserved for consideration in those meetings held in connection with the meeting of the National Council.

d. *Reports.* It shall be the duty of the American Board to make a full and accurate report of its condition and work to the National Council at each stated meeting of that body.

2. **The Home Societies.** These Societies, [with the Woman's Home Missionary Federation] (1927), shall be the agencies of the Congregational Churches for the extension of Christ's kingdom in the United States.

a. *Membership.* The voting membership of the several home societies shall consist, in additition to such existing life members and other members of the society in question as may be regarded as legally necessary, of two classes of persons.

(a) One class shall be composed of the members of the National Council so long as they remain members of said Council.

(b) There may also be chosen corporate members-at-large by the said societies, in the following numbers, viz.: by the Congregational Home Missionary Society, ninety; by the American Missionary Association, sixty; by the Congregational Church Building Society, [30; by] (1927), by the Congregational Education Society [18; by] (1927) [by the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Societies] (1923) [and by the Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief] (1915), *by the Congregational Publishing Society.* [18] (1927) *and by the Congregational Sunday School Extension Society* [18] (1927) *thirty-six each.* (1927). The said corporate members-at-large shall be chosen by each of the said societies in [three] *two* (1927) equal sections and so chosen that the term of each section shall be ultimately [six] *four* (1927) years, one section being chosen every second year at the meeting held in connection with the meeting of the National Council. [In this selection one-fifth of the said corporate members at large may be chosen from the organization for the support of Congregational activities affiliated in the Woman's Home Missionary Federation.] (1927) No new voting members other than herein provided shall be created by any society.

b. *Officers and Committees.* The officers and committees of the several home societies shall be such as the societies themselves may from time to time determine.

c. *Meetings.* Regular meetings of the Home Societies shall be held annually. Those falling in the same year in which the National Council holds its meetings shall be held in connection with the meeting of said Council. Meetings in other years shall be held at such times and places as the societies themselves may determine. Important business, especially such as involves extensive modifications of policy, shall so far as possible, be reserved for consideration in those meetings held in connection with the meeting of the National Council.

d. *Reports.* It shall be the duty of each of the Home Societies to make a full and accurate report of its condition and work to the National Council at each stated meeting of that body.

XI.—The Commission on Missions

1. [On nomination by the standing committee on Nominations, the National Council shall elect fourteen persons, and on nomination by the several national societies, home and foreign, shall also elect one person from each society, and on similar nomination one each from the whole body of Woman's Boards of Foreign Missions and from the Woman's Home Missionary Federation; who, together with the Secretary of the National Council *ex officio,* shall constitute a Commission on Missions.]

(In 1919 and later as shown Section I was revised to read as follows:)

1. On nomination of the [*Standing*] Committee on Nominations, the National Council shall elect [*sixteen*] *nine* (1927) persons, *at least one-third of the nine being women,* (1927) [and shall elect one person on nomination of each of the following societies or groups of societies: The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, the whole body of Woman's Boards of Foreign Missions, Church Extension Boards (comprising the Congregational Home Missionary Society, the Congregational Church Building Society, and the Congregational Sunday School Extension Society), the Woman's Home Missionary Federation, the American Missionary Association, the Congregational Education Society and the Congregational Publishing Society jointly, the Congregational Foundation for Education, Board of Ministerial Relief and the Annuity Fund for Congregational Ministers jointly, and the Executive Committee of the National Council; and shall elect one person on nomination of each State Conference recognized by the National Council as an administrative unit, also one person on nomination from each group of Conferences as follows:]

[Group 1. New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and District of Columbia
Group 2. North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky
Group 3. The Colored State Organizations
Group 4. Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana
Group 5. North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana
Group 6. Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona
Group 7. Idaho, Oregon
Group 8. Hawaii
Group 9. The German General Conference
Group 10. The Scandinavian Conferences] (1927)

who together with *the Moderator* (1923) and the Secretary of the National Council, *the elected members of the Prudential Committee of the American Board, and the Board of Thirty-six Directors of the Home Boards* [*with the chief promotional secretary of each of the societies named above and of the Commissions on Evangelism, Social Service and Religious and Moral Education* (*the Secretaries of said Boards and Commissions being members ex officio and without vote*) (1921)] (1927) shall constitute a Commission on Missions. The Secretary of the National Council shall be the General Secretary of the Commission. *The Commission may invite to sit with it without vote such Secretaries of the Societies as it may deem useful to its deliberations.* (1927)

[In view of the evident conviction of a large portion of the churches that the multiplicity of the Congregational Home Societies is not consistent with the greatest economy and efficiency, the Commission on Missions shall examine present conditions and shall recommend to the National Council such simplification or consolidation as shall seem expedient.] (1921)

At least once each year the chief executive officer of each State Conference shall be invited to sit with the Commission and participate in its discussions without vote.

2. **Members.** The members-*at-large* of the Commission on Missions shall [be] *serve for four years and after eight years' continuous service* [divided as nearly as possible into two equal sections in such

manner that the term of each section shall be ultimately four years and the term of one section shall expire at each biennial meeting of the Council. In these choices due consideration shall be given to convenience of meeting, as well as to the geographical representation of the churches. No member except the [[Secretary of the National Council]] *Secretaries named in Section 1,* (1921) whether nominated by the Standing Committee on Nominations of the National Council or by the Societies *or Conferences,* (1921) who has served on said Commission for two full successive terms of four years each.] (1927) shall be *in*eligible *for* re-election until after two years have passed.

Unpaid officers of any of the missionary societies of the churches shall be eligible to this Commission, but no paid officer or employee of a missionary society [*or State Conference* (1921)] (1927) shall be eligible. [except as indicated in Section 1.] (1927) The Commission shall choose its own Chairman, and have power to fill any vacancy in its own [number] *membership* (1927) until the next stated meeting of the Council.

3. **Duties.** While the Commission on Missions shall not be charged with the details of the administration of the several missionary [societies] *and educational organizations,* it shall be its duty to consider the work of the [societies] *organizations* named above, to prevent duplication of [Missionary] activities, to effect all possible economies of administration, [and to seek] to correlate the work of the several [societies] *organizations, together with their publicity and promotional activities,* so as to secure the maximum of efficiency with the minimum of expense. It shall have the right to examine the annual budgets of the several [societies] *organizations* and have access to their books and records. It may freely give its advice to the said [societies] *organizations* regarding problems involved in their work, and it shall make recommendations to the several [societies] *organizations* when, in its judgment, their work can be made more efficient or economical. It shall make report of its actions to the National Council at each stated meeting of that body, and present to said Council such recommendations as it may deem wise for the furtherance of the efficiency and economical administration of the several [societies] *organizations.*

The Commission is authorized to establish such office and to employ such staff as may be necessary for the economical and efficient conduct of its work. (1921)

4. **Expenses.** The members of the Commission on Missions shall serve without salary. The necessary expenses of the Commission, *including the expenses of its voting members, not otherwise provided for, shall* be paid from the treasury of the [National Council and said Council may limit the amount of the expense which may be incurred in any year.] *Commission on Missions.* (1921) All bills for payment shall be certified by the Chairman of the Commission *or such other responsible officer as the Commission shall designate.* (1921)

5. **Budget.** *The budget of the Commission shall be provided by the Societies from the contribution of the churches as approved by the representatives of the churches in the National Council, and on a scale of assessment determined by the Commission on the basis of the apportionment percentages. The budget should include in addition to the requirements of the Commission provision for a miscellaneous fund to meet the fair share of the denomination in interdenominational projects and minor calls upon the denomination.* (1927)

6. **Survey Committee.** *A survey committee of the National Council, but reporting to the Commission on Missions, consisting of twelve*

members, at least one-third of whom shall be women, shall be elected for terms of four years, one-half at each biennial meeting of the National Council on nomination by the Nominating Committee of the National Council. In 1927 six shall be elected for two years and six for four years. No member shall be elected for more than two successive terms. This committee shall be chosen from those outside of the Prudential Committee of the American Board, of the members of the Board of Directors of the Home Board, of the Administrative Committees of the Home Boards and of the salaried officiary of the denomination.

It shall be the duty of this committee to study the relative needs of the societies and states and recommend the apportionment percentages to the Commission on Missions. (1927)

(By-Law XII on The Corporation of the National Council was made Art. IV of the Constitution in 1927.)

XII. [XIII] (1927)—Devotional and Other Services

1. In the sessions of the National Council, half an hour every morning shall be given to devotional services, and the daily sessions shall be opened with prayer and closed with prayer or singing. The evening sessions shall ordinarily be given to meetings of a specially religious rather than of a business character.

2. The Council will seek to promote in its sessions a distinctly spiritual uplift, and to this end will arrange programs for the presentation of messages for the general public attending such gatherings. But the first concern of the Council shall be the transaction of the business of the denomination so far as that shall be intrusted to it by the churches; and the Council will meet in separate or executive session during the delivery of addresses whenever the necessity of the business of the Council may appear to require it.

XIII. [XIV] (1927)—Time Limitations

No person shall occupy more than half an hour in reading any paper or report, and no speaker upon any motion or resolution, or upon any paper read, shall occupy more than ten minutes, without the unanimous consent of the Council.

In case of discussion approaching the time set for it, the Moderator may announce the limitation of speeches to less than ten minutes, subject to the approval of the Council.

XIV. [XV] (1927)—The Printing of Reports

Such reports from commissions and statements from societies or theological seminaries as may be furnished to the Secretary seasonably in advance of the meeting may be printed at the discretion of the Executive Committee, and sent to the members elect, together with the program prepared. Not more than ten minutes shall be given to the presentation of any such report.

XV. [XVI] (1927)—The Publication of Statistics

The Council will continue to make an annual compilation of statistics of the churches, and a list of such ministers as are reported by the several state organizations. The Secretary is directed to present at each stated meeting comprehensive and comparative summaries for the two years preceding.

XVI. [XVII] (1927)—Fellowship with Other Bodies

The Council, as occasion may arise, will hold communication with the general Congregational bodies of other lands, and with the general ecclesiastical organizations of other churches of Christian faith in our own land, by delegates appointed by the Council or by the Executive Committee.

(Former By-Laws XVIII - XXII were transferred to the Constitution Art. III 5-9 in 1927.)

XVII. [XXIII] (1927)—Printed Ballots

Nominations for the Executive Committee of the Council, the Boards of Directors of the several societies and all elective officers shall be presented on printed ballots providing space for other nominations to be distributed to and cast by the members voting. A motion to instruct the casting of a single vote for any nominee shall be in order only upon the setting aside of this rule. Pending the declaration of the result of a ballot the order of the day may proceed. (1917)

XVIII.—Standing Rules (1927)

Standing rules may be adopted from time to time by a two-thirds' vote of the members present and voting at any meeting of the National Council. (1927)

Standing Rules (New in 1927)

1. *Enrollment of Delegates.* If more delegates are appointed by any constituent body than it is entitled to, they shall be enrolled in the order of presentation of their credentials up to the limit fixed by the constitution.

2. *Fraternal Delegates.* At each biennial meeting three fraternal delegates to the Congregational Union of England and Wales and one to each of the other national bodies of the Congregational churches, in addition to the Moderator ex officio, shall be appointed.

3. For purposes of nomination for positions on commissions and committees, and for other positions connected with the Council "ministers" shall be deemed to be those who have been ordained, and "laymen" those who have not been ordained.

4. *The Travel Fund.* Delegates from conferences and Associations which pay their full per capita for the support of the National Council and its mileage fund are entitled to share in the travel fund thus created. In any state which does not pay its entire per capita, participation in the fund shall be limited to delegates from Associations which have paid in full.

The mileage fund is distributed among all participating delegates on the basis of the number of miles traveled.

All persons regularly seated as delegates and serving for the major portion of the meeting of the Council shall be entitled to share in the mileage. (In 1925 By-Law XX provided as follows:)

[Distribution of mileage shall be made among the delegates on the basis of a full delegation from each state provided that no delegate shall receive more than one delegate's share. Substitutes from within the state shall be entitled to share in the pro rata mileage when requested by the state delegation.] (1927)

5. *Time for Business.* Ordinarily the forenoon sessions of the Council shall be reserved for the reports of commissions, discussion and action thereon and other necessary Council business, including a devotional period, and formal and inspirational addresses will be placed in the afternoon and evening sessions.

6. *Commissions.* In fields of executive activities where societies are at work, commissions of the National Council should not undertake executive responsibilities, but should rather make wholly independent studies and report recommendations and advice for the executives of the Council, of the Societies, of the State Conferences and of the churches.

Each commission shall ordinarily consist of active and corresponding members, one-fourth of the number being active members who shall reside within a short distance of some Congregational center that they may have several meetings without too great an expenditure of time and money. They shall present by mail to the corresponding members who reside in different parts of the country the main points at issue and shall take final action after the replies received have been considered. Each corresponding member shall be notified of the meetings of the commission and such corresponding members as attend may vote.

Commissions shall ordinarily consist of twenty-four members, six active and eighteen corresponding members.

No new commissions shall be appointed until the matter has been referred to the Executive Committee which shall report whether in its judgment the subject deserves special consideration, or should be handled by some existing society, committee or commission. The decision shall rest with the Council.

Each commission shall make a semi-annual report to the Executive Committee of the National Council and once each year the chairmen of the commissions shall be asked to join the Executive Committee in conference regarding the work of the commissions.

Commissions shall be appointed of persons having special contracts and first-hand information in the realms under review. The Social Relations Commission should consist mainly of employers, employees, and special students of industrial and race problems; the International Commission of those born in foreign countries, or who have lived or traveled there extensively, or have made a special study of or had intimate relations with interests abroad; the Inter-church Commission of those who have been connected at some time with other denominations or have been associated with federated movements; the Commission on Recruiting should consist mainly of pastors in college towns, members of the faculties of theological schools, universities, colleges, academies, and high schools, and possibly some students.

7. *Ministerial Standing.* (As adopted in 1929) The National Council recognizes ministerial standing as consisting of ministerial membership in a district association or state conference of Congregational churches based upon ordination. The loss of such membership is the loss of ministerial standing. A member who has been suspended from membership in a district association or state conference should not be permitted to exercise the function of the ministry during the period of his suspension.

8. *Ordination.* The standard of the Congregational churches calls for full theological training as preparatory to ordination. In exceptional cases ordination may be properly conferred upon persons lacking theological training in the schools provided they have successfully completed three years of field study under the auspices of a state conference committee regularly appointed for that purpose, or in correspondence courses with theological seminaries of recognized standing. The Council urges upon the churches the avoidance of any tendency to ordain to the ministry persons who have not received adequate educational preparations or who do not intend to make the

Christian ministry in its dignity and integrity their permanent life vocation.

The National Council recognizes the need of a specialized ministry in the modern church, therefore approves the tendency to ordain to the ministry qualified candidates who specialize in the work of religious education, and who should be recognized and honored as leaders in this developing phase of church work.

Coolidge, President Calvin (See Moderator)

Corporation for the National Council

(See also Charter, Ministerial Relief and Trustees.)

It was *voted,* that a committee of seven be appointed to consider the question of the incorporation of the National Council and report later in the session.

Later in the session the following report was made by the chairman:

The committee to which was referred the question of incorporating the National Council begs leave to report that it has had the matter under consideration and is of the opinion that the Council itself, or as such, should not be incorporated, but that there should be a corporate body, subject to the direction of the Council, which can hold property for its purposes and for the purposes of the denomination at large, and possibly act in cases where Congregational property is in danger of being diverted from legitimate, or originally intended, uses.

We accordingly recommend the appointment of a committee of five, three of whom shall be Connecticut lawyers, which shall, in connection with and subject to the approval of the Provisional Committee, procure the incorporation of such a body and report to the next National Council.

This report was accepted and the following committee was appointed: Simeon E. Baldwin, Charles E. Mitchell, Verrenice Munger, Rev. Joel S. Ives, of Connecticut; and Rev. Asher Anderson, of Massachusetts. 1907, p. 409.

Report of Committee on Incorporation

Your committee accordingly prepared the draft of an appropriate charter, for presentation to the General Assembly of Connecticut at its session in 1909, which draft was approved by the Provisional Committee; and in connection with that committee appeared before the Assembly and procured the enactment of the charter as so drawn.

It reads as follows:

INCORPORATING THE CORPORATION FOR THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES OF THE UNITED STATES

Resolved by this Assembly: Section 1. That Charles A. Hopkins, Thomas C. McMillan, Charles L. Kloss, Dan F. Bradley, Charles L. Noyes, Francis L. Hayes, William H. Day, Charles W. Osgood, Alexander Lewis, Asher Anderson, Joel S. Ives, and such other persons as may be associated with them, and their successors, are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate, by the name of The Corporation for the National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States.

Section 2. The object of said corporation is to do and promote charitable and Christian work for the advancement of the general interests and purposes of the Congregational churches of this country, and to receive, hold, and administer, in trust or otherwise, funds and property for the uses of said National Council, or of churches of the Congregational order, or of any particular church of said order, and all in accordance with resolutions and declarations made from time to time by the National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States, or by any body which may succeed to the functions of said council; and said corporation may co-operate with any other corporation or body which is under the charge and control of churches of the Congregational order in the United States, or churches at the time affiliated with said order.

Section 3. Said corporation may acquire by purchase, gift, devise, or otherwise, and hold and dispose of real and personal property for the purposes of its creation, and may make any contracts for promoting its objects and purposes not inconsistent with law.

Section 4. Said council, or its successor as aforesaid, may, from time to time, make and alter rules, orders, and regulations for the government of said corporation, and said corporation shall at all times be subject to its direction and control; and said National Council or such successor thereof may, from time to time, determine who shall be members of said corporation, provide for filling vacancies in their number, and appoint and remove members thereof. Said corporation may hold its meetings, from time to time, in any part of the United States, agreeably to such rules and regulations.

Section 5. The persons named in the first section of this resolution shall be the corporators under this charter until said National Council, or anybody succeeding to its functions, shall otherwise order, and between the meetings of said council, or of its successor, they or their successors may fill any vacancies occurring in their own number unless or until said council, or such successor, shall otherwise order.

Section 6. This resolution shall not be operative unless the same shall be approved by said National Council at a regular meeting thereof, due notice of which acceptance shall be filed with the secretary of the state.

Approved, April 21, 1909.

"*Whereas,* it was one of the designated purposes of this meeting of the National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States to consider and act upon the report of the special committee appointed at its meeting in 1907 to procure the incorporation of a corporation for the uses of this National Council, and such report with an accompanying charter from the State of Connecticut is now before the National Council for consideration;

"*Voted,* that said report is approved, and said charter, being a Resolution of the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, entitled as 'Incorporating The Corporation for the National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States,' and approved by the governor of Connecticut on April 21, 1909, is also approved and accepted by the National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States;

"*Voted,* that a due notice of this action and a copy of these votes be filed, as soon as may be, by the Secretary of this National Council with the Secretary of Connecticut." 1910, pp. 234-236.

A special committee to report on by-laws reported the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, that the following regulations be adopted for the organization and management of the Corporation for the National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States.

I. The corporate members of said Corporation shall consist of the moderator and the secretary of the Council, *ex officio,* and fifteen others elected by the Council, and shall take the place of those named in the charter from and after the filing with the secretary of Connecticut of notice of the acceptance of the charter.

II. Of said fifteen elected corporate members, eight shall be chosen for three years and seven for six years, provided that if the Council shall hereafter determine upon more frequent stated meetings, said fifteen members shall be divided under a scheme to be hereafter approved by the Council, into proportionably smaller groups with six years as the maximum term of service under any single election, and the terms so arranged that the terms of service of some but not all the corporate members shall expire at each stated meeting of the Council.

III. The first meeting of the Corporation shall be held in Connecticut as soon as convenient after the filing of notice of the acceptance of the charter with the secretary of Connecticut. Reasonable notice of the time and place of meeting from the secretary of the Council, addressed to each corporator by mail, shall be sufficient; and those of them who attend said meeting shall be a quorum.

Other meetings of the Corporation shall be held from time to time in such place and state as it may from time to time direct.

IV. At said first meeting said corporators shall choose two vice-presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer of said Corporation, and may choose any other officers or agents whom they deem proper.

The moderator of the Council shall be *ex-officio* president of said Corporation.

The terms of office of the elected officers shall be for one year and until their respective successors may be chosen.

V. Said Corporation shall receive and hold all property, real or personal, of the Council, and all property, real and personal, which may be conveyed to it in trust or otherwise for the benefit of Congregational churches or of any Congregational church: and, acting for the Council between the meetings of the Council in all business matters not otherwise delegated or reserved, shall do such acts and discharge such trusts as properly belong to such a Corporation and are in conformity to the constitution, rules, and instruction of the Council.

VI. Said Corporation may adopt for its government and the management of its affairs standing by-laws and rules not inconsistent with its charter nor with the constitution, by-laws, and rules of the Council.

It shall make to the Council at each of the regular meetings of the Council a full report of its doings since the preceding meeting of the Council.

It may by by-law determine how many members shall constitute a quorum at meetings of the Corporation.

For revised form see Constitution Art. IV.

Charter of the Corporation for the National Council

(Incorporated in the State of Connecticut, 1909)

Resolved by this Assembly: Section 1. That Charles A. Hopkins, Thomas C. MacMillan, Charles L. Kloss, Dan F. Bradley, Charles L. Noyes, Francis L. Hayes, William H. Day, Charles W. Osgood, Alexander Lewis, Asher Anderson, Joel S. Ives, and such persons as may be associated with them, and their successors, are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate, by the name of The Corporation for the

National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States.

Section 2. The object of said Corporation is to do and promote charitable and Christian work for the advancement of the general interests and purposes of the Congregational churches of this country, and to receive, hold and administer, in trust or otherwise, funds and property for the use of said National Council, or of churches of the Congregational order; and all in accordance with resolutions and declarations made from time to time by the National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States, or by any body which may succeed to the functions of said Council; and said Corporation may co-operate with any other corporation or body which is under the charge and control of churches of the Congregational order in the United States, or churches at the time affiliated with said order.

Section 3. Said Corporation may acquire by purchase, gift, devise, or otherwise, and hold and dispose of real and personal property for the purposes of its creation and may make any contracts for promoting its objects and purposes not inconsistent with law.

Section 4. Said Council, or its successors as aforesaid, may, from time to time, make and alter rules, orders, and regulations for the government of said Corporation, and said Corporation shall at all times be subject to its direction and control; and said National Council or such successor thereof may, from time to time, determine who shall be members of said Corporation, provide for filling vacancies in their number, and appoint and remove members thereof. Said Corporation may hold its meetings, from time to time, in any part of the United States, agreeably to such rules and regulations.

Section 5. The persons named in the first section of this resolution shall be the corporators under this charter until said National Council, or any body succeeding to its functions, shall otherwise order, and between the meetings of said Council, or its successor, they or their successors may fill any vacancies occurring in their own number unless or until said Council, or such successor, shall otherwise order.

Section 6. This resolution shall not be operative unless the same shall be approved by said National Council at a regular meeting thereof, due notice of which acceptance shall be filed with the Secretary of State.

(Approved, April 21, 1909.)

(Approved by the National Council, October 15, 1910.)

Close Interrelation of the Corporation for the National Council and the Executive Committee of the National Council favored. 1923, p. 208.

Report of the Commission on Polity on the Corporation for the National Council. 1923, pp. 61-63.

(See also Conditional Gifts.)

Creeds

That the committee to whom was referred the Declaration of Faith be instructed to report to the Council one or more samples of a creed for the use of the churches, for doctrinal and not for controversial purposes, embodying as far as may be the language of the Scriptures the leading doctrines thereof as held by all Congregational churches. (Laid on the table.) 1865, p. 196.

BURIAL HILL CREED

Standing by the rock where the Pilgrims set foot upon these shores, upon the spot where they worshiped God, and among the graves of the early generations, we, elders and messengers of the Congregational churches of the United States in National Council assembled—like them acknowledging no rule of faith but the Word of God—do now declare our adherence to the faith and order of the apostolic and primitive churches held by our fathers, and substantially as embodied in the confessions and platforms which our synods of 1648 and 1680 set forth or reaffirmed. We declare that the experience of the nearly two and a half centuries which have elapsed since the memorable day when our sires founded here a Christian commonwealth, with all the development of new forms of error since their times, has only deepened our confidence in the faith and polity of those fathers. We bless God for the inheritance of these doctrines. We invoke the help of the Divine Redeemer that, through the presence of the promised Comforter, he will enable us to transmit them in purity to our children.

In the times that are before us as a nation, times at once of duty and of danger, we rest all our hope in the gospel of the Son of God. It was the grand peculiarity of our Puritan fathers that they held this gospel, not merely as the ground of their personal salvation, but as declaring the worth of man by the incarnation and sacrifice of the Son of God; and therefore applied its principles to elevate society, to regulate education, to civilize humanity, to purify law, to reform the church and the state, and to assert and defend liberty; in short, to mold and redeem, by its all-transforming energy, everything that belongs to man in his individual and social relations.

It was the faith of our fathers that gave us this free land in which we dwell. It is by this faith only that we can transmit to our children a free and happy, because a Christian, commonwealth.

We hold it to be a distinctive excellence of our Congregational system that it exalts that which is more above that which is less important, and, by the simplicity of its organization, facilitates, in communities where the population is limited, the union of all true believers in one Christian church; and that the division of such communities into several weak and jealous societies, holding the same common faith, is a sin against the unity of the body of Christ, and at once the shame and scandal of Christendom.

We rejoice that, through the influence of our free system of apostolic order, we can hold fellowship with all who acknowledge

Christ, and act efficiently in the work of restoring unity to the divided church, and of bringing back harmony and peace among all ''who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.''

Thus recognizing the unity of the church of Christ in all the world, and knowing that we are but one branch of Christ's people, while adhering to our peculiar faith and order, we extend to all believers the hand of Christian fellowship upon the basis of those great fundamental truths in which all Christians should agree. With them we confess our faith in God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, the only living and true God; in Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word, who is exalted to be our Redeemer and King; and in the Holy Comforter, who is present in the church to regenerate and sanctify the soul.

With the whole church we confess the common sinfulness and ruin of our race, and acknowledge that it is only through the work accomplished by the life and expiatory death of Christ that believers in Him are justified before God, receive the remission of sins, and through the presence and grace of the Holy Comforter are delivered from the power of sin and perfected in holiness.

We believe also in the organized and visible church, in the ministry of the Word, in the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, in the resurrection of the body and in the final judgment, the issues of which are eternal life and everlasting punishment.

We receive these truths on the testimony of God, given through prophets and apostles, and in the life, the miracles, the death, the resurrection, of His Son, our Divine Redeemer—a testimony preserved for the church in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, which were composed by holy men as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Affirming now our belief that those who thus hold ''one faith, one Lord, one baptism,'' together constitute the one catholic church, the several households of which, though called by different names, are the one body of Christ, and that these members of His body are sacredly bound to keep ''the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace,'' we declare that we will co-operate with all who hold these truths. With them we will carry the gospel into every part of this land, and with them we will go into all the world and ''preach the gospel to every creature.'' May He to whom ''all power is given in heaven and earth'' fulfill the promise which is all our hope: ''Lo, I am with you alway, even to the end of the world. Amen.''

See Constitution of 1871 for basis of belief.

Resolved (1), That the paper on creeds be printed and receive the thoughtful consideration of the churches.

Resolved (2), That a committee of seven be appointed, who shall, as soon as practicable after the adjournment of the Council, select from among the members of our churches, in different parts of our land, twenty-five men of piety and ability, well versed in the truths of the Bible, and representing different shades of thought among us, who may be willing to confer and act together as a commission to prepare, in the form of a creed or catechism, or both, a simple, clear, and comprehensive exposition of the truths of the glorious gospel of the blessed God, for the instruction and edification of our churches.

Resolved (3), That the committee of seven take pains to secure the willing co-operation of the men selected; that the commission be left, without specific instructions from this body, to adopt their own methods of proceeding, and to take time as they may find necessary to perfect their work; and that the result of their labors, when complete, be reported, not to this Council, but to the churches and to the world through the public press, to carry such weight of authority as the character of the commission and the intrinsic merit of their exposition of truth may command. Memorials on, pp. 133-140; Report on, p. 198; Paper on, pp. 144-173. 1880, pp. 13, 14, 24.

Committee of seven reported the committee of twenty-five. 1883, p. 23.

It was *resolved,* That this Council has learned with satisfaction of the selection by a committee chosen for that purpose of a commission of twenty-five, with power to fill vacancies, and consisting of the following persons: Rev. Julius H. Seelye, of Massachusetts; Rev. Charles M. Mead, of Massachusetts; Rev. Henry M. Dexter, of Massachusetts; Rev. Edmund K. Alden, of Massachusetts; Rev. Alexander McKenzie, of Massachusetts; Rev. James G. Johnson, of Vermont; Rev. George P. Fisher, of Connecticut; Rev. George L. Walker, of Connecticut; Rev. William S. Karr, of Connecticut; Rev. George T. Ladd, of Connecticut; Rev. Samuel P. Leeds, of New Hampshire; Rev. David B. Coe, of New York; Rev. William M. Taylor, of New York; Rev. Lyman Abbott, of New York; Rev. Augustus F. Beard, of New York; Rev. William W. Patton, of District of Columbia; Rev. James H. Fairchild, of Ohio; Rev. Israel W. Andrews, of Ohio; Rev. Zachary Eddy, of Michigan; Rev. James T. Hyde, of Illinois; Rev. Edward P. Goodwin, of Illinois; Rev. Alden B. Robbins, of Iowa; Rev. Constans L. Goodell, of Missouri; Rev. Richard Cordley, of Kansas; Rev. George Mooar, of California—to prepare a creed and catechism to be offered to our churches for their use, if approved by them; and that we look forward with anticipations of happy results when the conclusion of their labors shall be offered to our churches. 1883, p. 23.

The creed prepared by this commission was published without further action of the Council, after some changes, in the Manual authorized by the National Council in the session of 1895, and is as follows:

CREED OF 1883

I. We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who is of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made;

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who is sent from the Father and Son, and who together with the Father and Son is worshiped and glorified.

II. We believe that the providence of God, by which he executes his eternal purposes in the government of the world, is in and over all events; yet so that the freedom and responsibility of man are not impaired, and sin in the act of the creature alone.

III. We believe that man was made in the image of God, that he might know love, and obey God, and enjoy him forever; that our first parents by disobedience fell under the righteous condemnation of God; and that all men are so alienated from God that there is no salvation from the guilt and power of sin except through God's redeeming grace.

IV. We believe that God would have all men return to him; that to this end he has made himself known, not only through the works of nature, the course of his providence, and the consciences of men, but also through supernatural revelations made especially to a chosen people, and above all, when the fullness of time was come, through Jesus Christ his Son.

V. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the record of God's revelation of himself in the work of redemption; that they were written by men under the special guidance of the Holy Spirit; that they are able to make wise unto salvation; and that they constitute the authoritative standard by which religious teaching and human conduct are to be regulated and judged.

VI. We believe that the love of God to sinful men has found its highest expression in the redemptive work of his Son; who became man, uniting his divine nature with our human nature in one person; who was tempted like other men, yet without sin; who by his humiliation, his holy obedience, his sufferings, his death on the cross, and his resurrection, became a perfect Redeemer; whose sacrifice of himself for the sins of the world declares the righteousness of God, and is the sole and sufficient ground of forgiveness and of reconciliation with him.

VII. We believe that Jesus Christ, after he had risen from the dead, ascended into heaven, where, as the one meditator between God and man, he carries forward his work of saving men; that he sends the Holy Spirit to convict them of sin, and to lead them to repentance and faith, and that those who through renewing grace turn to righteousness, and trust in Jesus Christ as their Redeemer, receive for his sake the forgiveness of their sins, and are made the children of God.

VIII. We believe that those who are thus regenerated and justified, grow in sanctified character through fellowship with Christ, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and obedience to the truth; that a holy life is the fruit and evidence of saving faith; and that the believer's hope of continuance in such a life is in the preserving grace of God.

IX. We believe that Jesus Christ came to establish among men the kingdom of God, the reign of truth and love, righteousness and peace; that to Jesus Christ, the Head of this kingdom, Christians are directly responsible in faith and conduct; and that to him all have immediate access without mediatorial or priestly intervention.

X. We believe that the Church of Christ, invisible and spiritual, comprises all true believers, whose duty it is to associate themselves in churches for the maintenance of worship, for the promotion of spiritual growth and fellowship, and for the conversion of men; that these churches, under the guidance of the Holy Scriptures and in fellowship with one another, may determine—each for itself—their organization, statements of belief, and forms of worship, may appoint and set apart their own ministers, and should co-operate in the work which Christ has committed to them for the furtherance of the Gospel throughout the world.

XI. We believe in the observance of the Lord's Day, as a day of holy rest and worship; in the ministry of the word; and in the two sacraments, which Christ has appointed for his church: Baptism, to be administered to believers and their children, as the sign of clearness from sin, of union to Christ, and of the impartation of the Holy Spirit; and the Lord's Supper, as a symbol of his atoning death, a seal of its efficacy, and a means whereby he confirms and strengthens the spiritual union and communion of believers with himself.

XII. We believe in the ultimate prevalence of the kingdom of Christ over all the earth; in the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; in the resurrection of the dead; and in a final judgment the issues of which are everlasting punishment and everlasting life.

Each Congregational church has its own confession of faith, and there is no authority to impose any general confession upon it; nor are our ministers required to subscribe to any specified doctrinal standards. But, as a basis of fellowship, we have certain creeds of acknowledged weight, to be used, not as tests, but as a testimony; and we have also, in ecclesiastical councils and associations of churches, recognized organs for expressing the fellowship and declaring the faith held by our churches to be essential, as well as guarding the liberty of thought generally allowed in our churches. Therefore, in the administration of all our benevolent societies and in the common work of our churches, the utmost care should be exercised in the application of the foregoing principles. 1892, pp. 18, 27.

For Kansas City Statement of Faith see Constitution.

Criminals

THE CRIMINAL AND DELINQUENT

Resolved, That the National Council lay upon the hearts and consciences of its fellowship, the problem of securing immediate and adequate justice and constructive help for those who have committed unsocial acts, particularly the young and first-offenders, together with the development of more stringent statutes and parole restrictions governing second and third-offenders, and suggest that wherever possible groups of churches unite in the employment of trained workers to serve in jails and among paroled delinquents, for the restoration and upbuilding of sound character and social effectiveness. 1927, p. 222.

Deaconesses

Resolutions on: 1901, p. 24.

Report on, 1904, p. 481; 1907, p. 292.

Delegates

CREDENTIALS

For discussion upon standing of delegates see 1865, pp. 29, 52, 148, 151.

That those brethren who present credentials from various bodies of Congregational ministers and churches in foreign countries be received as honorary members of this National Council. 1865, p. 64.

It appearing that Rev. Zachary Eddy, of Georgia, was elected delegate by a local body of less than six churches, it was

Resolved, That, while we deeply regret it does not seem possible for us in accordance with our constitution to admit Rev. Zachary Eddy, of Georgia, as a member in full of this body, we tender our earnest sympathy to our brethren in Atlanta, and invite him to sit as an honorary member of this Council. 1886, p. 12.

Questions on.

Committee on Questions divided.

Report of majority accepted and approved.

(1) A state body of less than six churches may appoint one delegate.

(2) It is not in accordance with the constitution of this body if a state or local body allows its delegates present at the Council to elect persons to fill any vacancy in the delegation to which that body is entitled. 1886, p. 45.

STATE BODIES

The committee on delegates of certain Georgia conferences presented a report, which was accepted.

It was *voted,* That said delegates be allowed to be heard. 1889, p. 27.

It was *voted,* That the credentials be collected and presented at once, and that the secretary read the names of delegates of the bodies respectively represented, and that the persons representing bodies which have been represented at any time in the National Council be *prima facie* members; and that then we proceed immediately to business. 1889, p. 2.

1. As to the question of recognizing more than one general body in a state, we recommend the adoption of the report of the Committee on Credentials, namely, that only one state association can have recognition under our rules.

2. We recommend that Rev. Henry S. DeForest and Rev. Fountain G. Ragland be given seats in this Council as delegates representing the Congregational Association of Alabama.

The Committee on Credentials presented a report relating to the General Convention of Alabama, with resolutions. The report was accepted, and the resolutions were adopted, as follows:

Resolved (1), That this Council recommends that negotiations for union with the churches of the Alabama Association be resumed, and that both parties, in the spirit of mutual concession, earnestly endeavor to bring all the Congregational churches of the state into one fraternal organization.

Resolved (2), That this Council gives present recognition to the General Convention of Alabama, pending further action upon the above recommendation, and cordially welcomes its representative, Rev. Stephen E. Bassett, to a seat in the Council of 1895. 1895, pp. 19, 94.

3. That Rev. Stephen E. Bassett and Rev. J. J. Stallings be given seats as delegates representing local conferences in Alabama; each of these two conferences containing a major fraction of ten churches according to their credentials and as provided by the rules of the Council.

4. That, since the body claiming to be the General Convention of Alabama is not yet organized as representing all the Congregational churches of the state, Rev. Edward A. Berry, who brings credentials from that body, be not received on those credentials, but that he be welcomed as an honorary member.

5. That the Council expresses the earnest hope that the Congregational churches of Alabama will at an early day be found in one united body on accepted principles of Congregational fellowship.

6. That the Council give cordial recognition to the new churches which apply for admission to this Council, and extend to them the assurance of Christian fellowship.

7. That this Council reaffirms the principle, which Congregationalists have always affirmed, of equal rights for all disciples of Christ, of every race, as essential to the fellowship of Congregational churches. 1892, p. 26. Report on, p. 291.

It was recommended and adopted by a vote of 119 to 20:

That neither of the organizations in Alabama be recognized as now being the state body; and that the Congregational churches of Alabama be advised to unite in a single state body on the basis of representation if each church, by pastor and delegate, according to the usage now generally prevalent in our churches throughout the country.

That, pending further adjustment of these mutual relations, the matter of reports of the churches to the Year-Book remain upon the same basis as during the last three years; and that, in view of the high personal worth of the brethren who have been sent here as delegates of the association and convention, respectively, and in recognition of the honorable service which they have rendered to Congregationalism in Alabama, they be invited by this Council to sit with it as honorary members. 1898, pp. 24, 27, 29, 34. Report on, p. 311.

Resolved, That the Rev. Simeon C. McDaniel, representing the Atlanta District Conference, and the Rev. Stephen E. Bassett, representing the Flint River District Conference, be enrolled as representing these conferences respectively; and that the Rev.

Alvan F. Sherrill, of Atlanta, be given a seat as an honorary member.

Resolved, That this Council reaffirms the historic position we conceive to be characteristic of Congregationalism always, the equality of all brethren in Christ Jesus; and that we admit the before-named delegates of the Congregational conferences in Georgia to membership in this body in the belief that they also stand with us on this ground, and in the expectation that they will use the uttermost of their endeavors at home to realize and manifest the fact in the promotion of organic union among all the Congregational churches of that commonwealth. 1889, pp. 19, 27, 277.

First. That the Rev. Benjamin A. Imes be received as a member of this Council representing the Congregational Association of Alabama.

Second. That this Council would advise the Congregational churches of Alabama that so long as they shall dissemble regarding a single state body, it would be the better way to seek representation through the smaller bodies and not ask the National Council to recognize either the Congregational Association or the Congregational Convention as a state body. 1904, p. 430.

(Since 1910 delegates have been seated from both white and colored state bodies.)

EXPENSES OF

That the Finance Committee be requested to pay the ministers who have presented a statement of the amount of their expenses in attending upon this Council fifty per cent of the amount so presented; provided that no person shall receive a sum exceeding $200; provided, also, that no one shall be paid any amount toward his expenses who receives an annual salary of $1,500 or over. 1865, p. 279.

Resolved, That we recommend to all our churches to take up a collection on or near the second Sabbath in May, before the meeting of the proposed Council, to assist in paying the traveling expenses of ministers coming from a considerable distance who may need such aid, and also to defray the incidental expenses of the Council itself, the avails of these collections to be distributed by a committee of the proposed Council, and any surplus that may remain to be placed in the hands of the Congregational Union in aid of church building. 1865, p. 9.

It was *voted,* That it is inexpedient for this Council to take action on the subject of paying the expenses of delegates, and it is recommended that the matter be referred to the several bodies that appoint delegates, that they may consider and report upon it at the next Council. 1874, p. 22.

Resolved, That, in order to test the sense of the churches, through the conferences and associations, and to obtain full data for wise action in the premises, this body appoint a committee of three to consider all questions involved and prepare a definite plan to be reported at the next session of the National Council. 1892, pp. 31, 291.

Resolved, That, in view of the distinction conferred on any church by the election of its pastor or other member to the sessions of the National Council, this body advises the payment of the necessary expenses of such delegate by the church. 1895, p. 32. Report on, p. 263.

Whereas, The attendance of delegates in this session indicates that only a small portion of the full complement called for by the constitution (estimated at seven hundred) is present; and,

Whereas, More than two hundred delegates, known to be elected to this session, are *not* present; and,

Whereas, The provincialism resulting therefrom is a weakness, which should be overcome, if possible; therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of five be elected (to report at the next session), and that it be requested to communicate by correspondence or otherwise with the several state and district associations and conferences, urging upon them the wisdom of providing some plan or plans by which a part or the whole of the expenses of the delegates may be met. 1901, p. 43.

1. The National Council, in order to fulfill its mission, ought to be truly representative of our entire American Congregationalism.

2. The average attendance at all Councils held thus far has been less than sixty per cent of the entire number of delegates entitled to representation, entire sections of the country being left with scant representation and in some instances none at all.

3. This meager attendance is caused in no small measure by the inability of many delegates to meet the expenses which attendance at a National Council involves, financial considerations thus depriving the Council of the deliberations of men who are abundantly able to contribute to its wisdom and influence, and the representation of portions of our land which are most in need of such participation.

In view of the above-mentioned facts, we respectfully urge upon our conferences and state bodies the importance of giving this subject serious consideration at their next regular meeting, and venture to express the hope that the plan already adopted by a few associations and conferences of paying all the expenses of the delegates out of the association or conference treasury may soon become the established custom of all our state and district bodies throughout the land. 1904, p. 558.

It was voted that the various state and local bodies be requested to consider the question of expenses of delegates to the National Council and that the provisional committee give it its attention in a communication to be addressed to these bodies. 1907, p. 426.

That the Executive Committee be directed to inquire as to the possibility of meeting in part the expenses of delegates to the National Council and to report at the next Council meeting. (From the report of the Executive Committee as adopted.) 1915, p. 29; 1917, p. 33.

On recommendation of the Executive Committee it was voted that a direct appeal be made to conferences and associations to increase the number of lay delegates to the Council. 1919, p. 20.

The Committee on Credentials made the following suggestion in its report:

In view of the multiplying responsibilities of the Council and the growing complexity of its work, the importance of having regular and thoroughly understood methods, not only for enrollment, but for the choice and accrediting of delegates is apparent. It is clearly the purpose of the constitution that the Council should not be thought of as in any sense or to any degree a mass convention, but that it should have a continuing or overlapping membership of regularly chosen delegates. The by-law (XX) which provides for the filling of vacancies was manifestly intended to cover emergencies, and not to make the filling out of delegations at the Council so easy as to discourage an earnest effort on the part of associations and conferences to send their full quotas of duly elected and accredited delegates. The establishment of the Traveling Expense Fund is another reason for attempting and encouraging all along the line a more careful and thorough procedure in the selection and accrediting of delegates in advance, and for recognizing the right of alternate delegates to be informed in good season of inability on the part of primary delegates to attend the Council.

The Committee recommends that in perfecting the roll of this Council and in arranging for the enrollment of the next, the Secretary and those associated with him be asked carefully to consider what should be done with or without amending the by-laws, to improve our administrative methods at this important point.

It is also recommended that in preparing for the next meeting of the Council the Secretary be authorized to request that certificates of substitution under by-law XX shall not be presented till the afternoon of the second day of the meeting. 1919, pp. 41, 42.

Recognition of Evangelical Protestant Churches (which see) 1925, p. 21.

That the Porto Rico Conference be given associational representation in the Council meetings, but not conference representation also. (From the report of the Executive Committee 1927, p. 193.)

For basis of electing delegates see Constitution.

Eaton, Dr. Edward D.

Voted, That the Council express its appreciation of the self-sacrificing labor and wise counsel of Dr. Edward D. Eaton in serving as Secretary ad interim. 1921, p. 375.

Education, Christian

(See also Congregational Education Society, and Foundation for Education.)

Resolved (1), That in accordance with the spirit and the requirement of our faith and polity, we declare our deep interest in the cause of education, and our earnest purpose to assist in the instruction of youth throughout the land, by the support, the strengthening, and the improvement of our system of free public schools, whose origin on this continent and in the world was of our Congregationalist fathers; and by the continued favoring also, as from the early generations, of all judicious efforts for the establishment and enlargement of colleges and schools for the higher education, in which instruction may be given after the methods and in the principles of a sound Christian learning.

Resolved (2), That we commend especially to the wise liberality of our churches those colleges, schools, and theological seminaries in the Interior and the newer West which have the most urgent need to be further strengthened for their work, and whose influence should be speedily and powerfully felt in shaping the character of the communities in which they are planted, and in the training also of young men and women for services of special usefulness in the Christian Church; and that we express our hearty appreciation of the laborious and self-sacrificing spirit exhibited by the teachers and officers of these institutions.

Resolved (3), That special and effectual care should be had in the management of all our colleges and higher schools to furnish instruction to those in attendance upon them at a moderate cost; and that this purpose should be held clearly in mind in the bestowing of gifts to these institutions, as well as in the reception or use of them, to the end that the benefits of a thorough Christian education may be open to all, as widely and freely as is possible. 1886, pp. 50, 238.

THE EDUCATION BILL IN ENGLAND

Voted, That this National Council send an expression of its sympathy and interest to those thirty thousand men in England who, listening to the voice of their love of religious liberty, have enrolled themselves as passively resisting the encroachment upon that liberty by the recently passed school bill. 1904, p. 552.

On recommendation of the Commission on Missions the hope was expressed that $20,000,000 might be raised in connection with what came to be known as the Congregational World Movement for our educational institutions. 1919, p. 30.

Report of the Educational Survey Commission. 1921, pp. 274-320.

Address by G. Stanley Hall. 1907, p. 33.

Address by Henry Churchill King. 1921, p. 330.

See also Congregational Education Society, and Foundation for Education.

Evangelical Protestant Churches

On recommendation of the Executive Committee,

Voted, To receive as fraternal delegates representatives present from the German Evangelical Protestant Churches. 1923, p. 194.

Rev. C. A. Voss of Pittsburgh, Pa., presented greetings from the Evangelical Protestant Churches of North America and spoke briefly on behalf of those churches and the delegation that accompanied him on the matter of possible union of that denomination with the Congregational Churches.

On recommendation of the Executive Committee the following was passed:

That the Conference of the Evangelical Protestant Churches in North America be recognized as on a parity with Congregational State Conferences, with representation in the National Council accordingly. 1925, p. 21.

Dr. Carl A. Voss of Pittsburgh, Pa., of the Evangelical Protestant Churches, delivered an address on "Our Evangelical Protestant Heritage." 1925, p. 22.

Evangelism

Paper on "Evangelistic Movement," by Rev. Samuel E. Herrick, D. D. 1877, pp. 20, 134. Report on, p. 57.

Resolution relating to evangelists in the list of ministers was accepted and referred to the Committee on the Pastorate and Ministerial Standing. 1886, p. 42.

The committee to confer with the Executive Committee of the American Home Missionary Society in relation to evangelists presented a report, which was accepted.

Closing paragraph of report:

Your committee desire, therefore, to urge upon their brethren in the ministry, through the National Council, the larger employment and the more thorough organization of lay effort, either in the local church or in combination with other Christian churches, for the increased extension of the evangelistic work of the churches. 1889, pp. 4, 242.

Resolved (1), That the Council endorse the general principles of this paper, namely, the demand of our times for a more evangelistic ministry; the duty of the whole church to recognize her evangelistic mission; and the obligation of the churches to supply this demand by providing special training for this distinct branch of service by readjusting their methods to admit of the fulfillment of this mission, by the development of the co-operation, as far as possible, of their entire membership, and by the use of the whole local church as the unit for the evangelization of the outlying population.

Resolved (2), That the Council earnestly commit to the further attention of our theological seminaries the need of more adequate provision for training young men, from the beginning of their study, in the principles and the personal prosecution of practical evangelist work.

Resolved (3), That the employment of evangelists by and under the authority and direction of state and local conferences and associations, to labor when called for by the churches or by the needs of destitute localities, be both commended and advised.

Resolved (4), That . . . be appointed a committee to refer to the Executive Committee of the American Home Missionary Society such suggestions as they may deem best towards the organization and prosecution of evangelistic work, under the auspices of that society, among the churches and throughout the country. 1886, p. 41.

Address by Professor Steiner on "Evangelization of Our Congregational Churches." 1904, pp. 222-243.

Report of Committee on, 1904, p. 537.

"The New Day for Congregationalism in Evangelism." Address by Prof. Edward I. Bosworth. 1907, pp. 120-132.

"Christian Endeavor and Evangelism." Address, Rev. Francis E. Clarke, 1907, pp. 150-160.

"Organized Evangelism." Address by Rev. W. J. Dawson. 1907, pp. 161-168.

Pastoral Evangelism

Your committee approves heartily of the object and method of the Evangelistic Committee as outlined by themselves at the last Council:

"I. The object of this movement is to promote evangelism among the Congregational churches of America, the bringing of men to a definite decision for Jesus Christ.

"II. The method of the movement contemplates:

"(1) The undertaking of the work by pastors, as such, in regular and special services; (2) the co-operation of pastors in special evangelistic meetings; (3) the formation of groups in local churches for prayer and spiritual co-operation; (4) the securing of state and sectional committees to work with the Central Committee in promoting the movement and to secure and furnish information to the local churches; (5) should the movement warrant it, the funds be secured, and a man fitted for the work be found, then in time the employment of a field secretary who would take general charge of the work and represent it among the churches."

We only venture to urge that the new committee press even more vigorously the lines of policy there indicated.

From the report of the special committee on the Report of the Committee on Evangelism. 1907, p. 309.

During the early part of the period under review earnest consideration was given by the Board of Directors to the question whether the society may wisely establish one or both of two new departments suggested to them. These departments are Evangelism and Industrial Relations. The conclusion finally and unanimously reached was that it is inexpedient for the society to enlarge the range of its activities. The tasks which fall to it as a church-planting and maintaining agency in city and country, on the frontier and among the immigrants, are so varied, important, and exacting as to tax all the resources of leadership and funds which the society can command. Therefore, while recognizing in full degree the close affinity between the fields covered by the proposed departments and the historic work of the society, it is believed that they can be better cared for by other forms of organization. From the report of the Congregational Home Missionary Society. 1910, p. 169.

Rev. Clarence F. Swift presented the report of the Commission on Evangelism which was approved and ordered filed. (See page 280). The following recommendations were adopted:

"That we urge upon our Conferences the appointment of a strong Committee on Evangelism in every state where such a Committee does not now exist for careful attention to the work of evangelism especially among smaller churches.

"That in line with the endeavor of the Commission on Evangelism of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ to secure a higher standard for evangelistic workers the Commission on Evangelism be instructed to take under careful consideration the character and fitness of men in our denomination who desire to serve the Kingdom of God as evangelists, seeking always the co-operation of the local body in which the ministerial standing of such evangelistic worker is vested." 1915, pp. 31, 32.

On recommendation of Business Committee recommendations of Commission on Evangelism were adopted as follows:

Acting in unison with many churches whose fellowship with us is close and stimulating, the National Council of the Congregational Churches expresses its approval of the general features of the plan proposed by the Commission on Evangelism of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America for a nation-wide campaign of evangelistic work, especially endorsing its comprehensive use of the personal, pastoral, vocational, and federated resources of the churches and laying peculiar emphasis upon rural evangelism.

Recognizing the necessity of a forward movement in the evangelistic work of the churches in these times of paramount spiritual opportunity, the National Council approves the plans proposed for such an advance by the Commission on Evangelism and sanctions immediate procedure to carry them into effect. The Commission on Evangelism is therefore empowered to raise the necessary funds for the new work and to secure the service of a Secretary. This enterprise is heartily commended to churches and individuals for support and the Council pledges its co-operation with the Commission in every practical way.

In view of the supreme importance of the spiritual extension of our churches, the National Council urges the mobilization of the denomination for its evangelistic task in accordance with its spirit and temper by the appointment of vigorous Commissions on Evangelism in all the state conferences, the increase in the number of state and district evangelists and the organization of every church to carry out a specific evangelistic program. 1917, pp. 62, .63.

A Program of Evangelism

Early in November, 1918, the Committee met and determined upon its course; but first of all it adopted the fundamental aim which was twofold in nature: first of all, to develop a deep-seated spirit of evangelism throughout our entire fellowship; and secondly, to secure the incorporation in the life of every church of a clear-cut, definite plan of action for reaching men in an all-the-year-round, church-wide program of evangelism.

The machinery chosen for carrying out this aim was simple and direct. Plans were made for a call to prayer for a six weeks' period preceding Easter, in which period centered also the first objective of a program of evangelism in the local church, which program was outlined at the same time. For the purpose of securing a response to the call for prayer and the adoption of the program of evangelism, a double approach was made to the churches, (1) by mail to every pastor, and (2) by personal contact through the denominational organization; that is, the National Council, the Church Extension Boards, the Religious Education Boards, the A. M. A., and for the foreign field, the American Board.

The call to prayer sought to unify the intercession of our people by the circulation of a booklet entitled "The Fellowship of Prayer," giving daily Bible reading, text, sentiment, hymn, meditation, and subject for prayer, together with simple prayer form. 150,000 of these were printed for circulation upon the order of our pastors and churches.

The use of the Prayer Calendar was one of the most significant pieces of co-operation ever carried through by the Congregational churches.

The second approach by mail was the sending to every pastor an eight-page leaflet entitled "A Program of Evangelism." This leaflet outlined concisely methods of organization and of enlistment of the entire church membership in an all-the-year-round program of action for making disciples. 25,000 copies of this booklet were furnished on the order of our churches for the guidance of pastors and officers in planning their work.

A letter was addressed to every pastor on the first of each month, directing attention to the plans and stimulating eagerness and constancy in carrying them out. State conferences and local associations were also prompted to put the subject of evangelism, and particularly of this campaign, upon their regular programs. From the report of the Commission on Evangelism. 1919, pp. 168, 169.

PROGRAM FOR 1919-1920

September-December

1. Church and Sunday School rallies with ''every-home visitation'' by pastor and lay workers to discover new families and enlist new members in the Sunday School. ''Go-to-church'' Sunday, September 27.

2. A national absentee campaign to find Congregationalists who have removed without letter and persuade them to become affiliated with the church near their new home.

January-Easter

1. The evangelistic movement to be initiated early in the year, utilizing if possible Watch Night and the interdenominational Week of Prayer.

2. State and association ministers' retreats.

3. A campaign of publicity for the local church.

4. The formation of prayer circles to use a ''Fellowship of Prayer.''

5. Enlistment and training of a small group of tactful, consecrated members to assist the pastor in securing decisions for Christ.

6. Enrollment of Children in the Pastor's Training Class to meet weekly during Lent.

7. Devotional services in every church conducted by the pastor during Holy Week with union Good Friday services wherever possible.

8. The Easter Ingathering (April 4).

Executive Secretary for Evangelism

Co-operating with and following the lead of the Commission on Evangelism, the Committee engaged as Executive Secretary, Rev. F. L. Fagley, D. D., who came to the office on April 1, ready to devote himself to a thoroughgoing study of the work of the church in reaching men and prepared to serve the denomination in finding and promoting the most effective evangelistic methods.

The National Home Missionary Society convinced of the fundamental nature of this work and of its primary importance has voted aid to the denominational commission just as it would vote aid to a local church. From the report of the Congregational Home Missionary Society. 1921, p. 200.

At the request of the Commission on Evangelism, the Business Committee recommends that the Council instruct its Commission on Missions to provide in such a way as seems best a budget of $15,000 per year for the Commission on Evangelism and Devotional Life, and that such funds be expended under the supervision of the Executive Committee of the National Council; and that the treasurer of the National Council serve as the treasurer of the Commission.

The Business Committee further recommends the adoption by the Council of the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth recommendations of the Commission on Evangelism as follows:

Third, that this Council go on record as recommending to all Congregational pastors to consider first of all, the responsibility which rests upon each one to cultivate the spiritual life of his church and that to bring the inspiration of the Divine Presence into the lives of men is the first great task of the Christian Ministry.

Fourth, that this Council go on record as recommending to the churches a Fall Church Rally Program; this program to be formulated by the Commission with as wide a consultation with the State Superintendents and pastors as possible and submitted to pastors in August of each year.

Fifth, that we view with satisfaction the development by pastors of the Lenten or pre-Easter program of the churches, and that we recommend this feature of church work to pastors who have not attempted a Lenten program.

Sixth, we recommend to all State Conferences and to all Association meetings that at each stated meeting there be given at least one address or sermon bearing upon the spiritual life and work of the church, and advocating a definite program of evangelism and devotional culture.

Seventh, that we voice a cordial greeting to the Commission on Evangelism of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, and express to Rev. Charles L. Goodell, the Executive Secretary of that Commission, our heartfelt appreciation of his leadership in sane and practical evangelism among the churches.

Eighth, in the same way we voice the approval of efforts put forth by many City and State Federations for simultaneous evangelistic programs in the churches of cities and states and urge all our pastors where such programs are in preparation or in process that as far as the work of their own congregations will permit, each one join most heartily in such simultaneous federated efforts. 1923, pp. 209, 210.

Voted, That the budget of the Commission on Evangelism be $13,000 per year for the biennium, and that this sum be paid to the Commission in monthly installments beginning April 1, 1926. 1925, p. 44.

Bequest for Evangelism. 1929, p. 13.

See also regular reports of the Commission on Evangelism in the minutes of the Council.

European Churches

The National Council approves the Central Bureau for Relief of the Evangelical Churches of Europe as established by the Federal Council of Churches, and will endeavor to further the co-operation of the churches of the Congregational body in the maintenance of this bureau and in its work of relief. 1923, p. 237.

Every-Member Canvass

The Every-Member Canvass: to secure not only more givers and larger gifts, but, what is of far greater importance, to win through personal contact a permanent increase in the number of those who know and love the cause of missions.
From the recommendations of the Apportionment Commission. Adopted by the Council. 1913, p. 219.

The Every-Member Canvass plan urged by the Commission on Missions, whose report was approved by the Council. 1915, pp. 266, 267.

We look forward with confidence to raising the full apportionment in 1924 by the use of the Every-Member Canvass plans now in process, and we pledge ourselves, and urge upon our fellow Congregationalists the utmost loyalty and co-operation for the attainment of that objective. From a resolution proposed by the American Board and adopted by the Council. 1923, p. 223.

Executive Committee

(See Provisional Committee)

Until the meeting of 1913 when the constitution was entirely redrafted the body which is now called the Executive Committee was termed the Provisional Committee.

The functions of the Executive Committee are defined in By-law VIII.

In 1915 it was voted "That the functions assigned to the Commisson on Bible Cause be given to the Executive Committee." 1915, p. 29.

10. That the Executive Committee, while assigned no authority over the Commissions above named, be instructed to aid them in developing and co-ordinating their work as it may be able.

11. That in discharge of the duty just named the Executive Committee, at some date not more than four months before each Council Meeting, if it proves feasible, shall invite the Chairmen of all Commissions to meet with it for discussion of the reports to be presented at the coming Council, to the end that each portion of the total field may have the benefit of the thought and effort of those at work in other portions. 1917, p. 34.

Voted, That the National Council approve the general recommendations of the Commission on Polity with reference to the Corporation for the National Council and the Executive Committee, and without directing an identity of membership in the two, favors an interlocking membership and a close interlocking of the work of the two bodies. 1923, p. 208.

That the Commission on Polity be discontinued and its duties transferred to the Executive Committee of the National Council. 1923, p. 217.

Voted, That the Executive Committee be empowered to elect an Associate Secretary. 1925, p. 22.

See also regular reports with recommendations to each meeting of the National Council in the minutes of the Council.

Expositions

OF 1892

Resolved, That the Provisional Committee, after inquiry and conference, secure, if found practicable, space in the proposed exposition of 1892 in which to show what Congregationalism has done for the world. 1889, pp. 36, 49.

COLUMBIAN

We therefore recommend that this whole matter be referred to the committee of which Rev. James G. Johnson, of Chicago, is chairman, with full power to act as circumstances may require; and, in case favorable action is determined upon, that this committee be empowered to add to its number and fill any vacancies that may occur. We promise our hearty co-operation in carrying out any plans that this committee may think wise.

We also heartily approve of the scheme of congresses arranged by the World's Congress Auxiliary of the Columbian Exposition; and we especially indorse the proposition to hold a Congress of Missions and a Congregational Congress under their auspices, which, if carried out as proposed, will accomplish, in part at least, the same object as that of the suggested material exhibit.

The same committee reported the following resolutions, which were accepted and adopted by a unanimous rising vote:—

Resolved, That we, the National Council, representing five thousand Congregational churches in the United States, express our hearty approval of the action of our national Congress in conditioning its appropriation to the Columbian Exposition on its closing on the Lord's Day; and that we earnestly protest against any repeal of this action.

Resolved, That we instruct the secretary of the Council to forward a copy of this resolution to the National Commission, the board of directors, and to both houses of Congress. 1892, p. 35. Report on, p. 279.

Report of committee. 1895, pp. 16, 288.

ST. LOUIS, 1904

That there be appointed by this Council a committee of five members on a Congregational exhibit at the World's Fair to be held in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1903, celebrating the centennial of the Louisiana Territorial Purchase; that they be empowered to make such a display of Congregational memorabilia, methods, and work as may seem best, and also to provide for Congregational headquarters at said exposition. 1901, p. 31.

Report of committee. 1904, pp. 406, 534.

Resolved, That the National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States earnestly urge the city government of San Francisco and the Board of Directors of the Exposition to adopt every means to prevent the exploiting of the exposition by commercialized vice and to protect the visitors to San Francisco from such influence as would tend to lower public morals and injure the good name of San Francisco in America.

And we further commend the foresight of the mayor and officials of San Francisco and endorse such worthy action. 1913, p. 393.

Fast Day

(See also Prayer, Day of)

The committee would recommend that Friday, the fifteenth day of September next, be observed by the churches represented in this Council as a day of fasting and prayer to Almighty God for the outpouring upon them of his Holy Spirit, so that this great convocation may be speedily followed by those good effects which were aimed at in the beginning; by a closer union and a warmer mutual sympathy, both among ourselves and with all who love our common Lord; by a deeper and more intelligent grasp of the principles of our own faith and polity; by a more earnest personal consecration to Christ and his kingdom; by a new spirit of missionary zeal, both in behalf of the work to be done abroad and the new and important fields to be occupied at home; so that having, like the primitive disciples, tarried at Jerusalem for "the promise of the Father," the ministry and the churches may go forth, beneath a new and mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost, to preach that gospel which brought our fathers to these shores, which is sent for the healing of the nations, and which is destined to lead the whole world unto Christ. The committee would also recommend that a committee of three be appointed to prepare and issue to the churches as soon as possible a circular to this effect, embracing also an appeal to the churches in behalf of the $750,000 fund. 1865, p. 492.

Federal Council of Churches

At the National Council meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, October 8-17, 1907, it was

"*Resolved,* That the National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States, assembled in Cleveland, October, 1907, affirms its approval of the general purposes of the Inter-Church Conference and the election of delegates in accordance with the plan of federation; also that the Provisional Committee be authorized to take action in meeting our share of the necessary expenses."

The first Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America held its meeting in the city of Philadelphia, December 2-8, 1908.

To quote from Dr. Sanford: "It was conceded on the adjournment of the Council that it opens a new chapter in the history of American Christianity and the cause of Christian unity. The spirit manifested in the Council, and the conclusions reached with practical unanimity after full discussion, give promise that the churches of our country will in the future stand together as never before in united efforts for the advancement of the Kingdom of God." From the report of the Committee on Interchurch Relations. 1910, pp. 264, 265.

Your committee recommend that delegates be appointed at this session of the National Council to the next meeting of the Federal Council to be held.

It is also important that the Congregational churches of America pay their share of the expenses of the Federal Council. From the Report on Interchurch Relations. 1910, p. 267. Industrial Principles adopted by the Federal Council. 1910, pp. 71, 226.

(For text of Declaration of Principles see Industry.)

Report adopted and delegates elected. 1910, p. 389.

It is recommended:

(1) That the Council express its strong confidence in the importance of the work of the Federal Council, and urge the churches to contribute to its support.

(2) That in raising the amount apportioned to the Congregational churches, namely, seven hundred and fifty dollars, the plan already in use, outlined above, be continued.

(3) Inasmuch as the Federal Council depends, for its maintenance, upon the generous gifts of individuals in addition to the sums asked from the denominations as a whole, it is further recommended that the National Council express its belief that by making gifts for this purpose individual Congregationalists will render an important service to Christianity.

From the report of delegates to the Federal Council. 1913, pp. 274, 275.

Recommendations adopted. 1913, p. 386.

That the annual sum of $749.00 apportioned to Congregational churches for maintenance of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America be paid from the treasury of the National Council for the coming biennium. 1915, p. 29.

Report of the Executive Committee on the Federal Council. 1915, p. 236.

We would approve the work already carried forward by the Federal Council of Churches for co-operation in Christian work, the success of which opens the way for further and more ultimate unity. (From the report of the Commission on Comity, Federation and Unity as adopted.) 1917, p. 59.

Voted, That the Secretary of the National Council confer with the Financial Secretary of the Federal Council as to the preparation of an appeal to Congregationalists for gifts in 1921 to the amount of at least $10,000. (See below.)

Voted, That our share of the Federal Council's Budget for 1922 be approved at fifteen thousand dollars and that this amount be made a first claim upon the miscellaneous one per cent of the 1922 apportionment, if such a one per cent be included in the apportionment, otherwise that plans for securing this amount be made by the Apportionment Committee. 1921, p. 376. (See below.)

Voted, To reconsider the action in passing resolutions in support of the Federal Council (see page 376) and refer same to the Commission on Missions with power. 1921, p. 392.

Voted, That the National Council commend to the Commission on Missions the wisdom of setting apart one per cent of the apportionment to meet our fair quotas in the support of such undenominational causes as the American Bible Society, the Federal Council of Churches, the Protestant Churches of Europe; which at present are seeking support through appeals to the churches individually, thus obviating the need of such appeals. 1923, p. 194.

The Business Committee presented and recommended for adoption the following resolution pertaining to the relationship of the National Council to the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America:

Resolved, That the National Council of Congregational Churches hereby definitely affirms its constituent membership in the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, and, as a tangible and practical expression of this membership, authorizes the Commission on Missions to contribute to said Federal Council such amounts as it deems wise from the miscellaneous item of the apportionment, and further directs that a report from the Federal Council be a part of the program at each of our biennial meetings, and further that the Congregational representatives on the Federal Council be charged with the responsibility for arranging, in co-operation with the program committee, for such report or other presentation of the work of the Federal Council. 1923, p. 202.

Resolved, That the report of the Federal Council be received with expression of continued and growing confidence in this organization as a practical expression of the spiritual unity of American Protestant Christianity. 1929, p. 230.

Federation

(See Interchurch Relations and Federal Council.)

Finances

(See also Publishing Committee.)

The failure of a large number of churches to respond to the call made by the preliminary meeting for contributions to meet the expenses of this Council has resulted in a lack of means to meet the just demands upon our treasury.

That the Finance Committee be authorized to call upon the more wealthy of those churches which failed to make contribution for a sum not less than one thousand dollars to meet such deficit, and that said committee be directed to pay over any balance which shall remain in their hands, after discharging all just claims against this Council, into the hands of the Congregational Union.

That the delegates to this Council representing the churches to which this call shall be addressed be requested to aid the committee in their collections. 1865, p. 360.

It was voted that a collection be taken in this body to raise the sum of $300 to defray the expenses of the Council. 1871, p. 57.

See Publishing Committee. 1880, p. 27. Report on, p. 194.

Resolved, That the action of the committee on the report of the treasurer, in the measures taken to secure subscriptions and pledges for the payment of the debt created under the orders of the last Council, has our hearty approval; and that the committee have our hearty thanks.

Resolved, That the committee be, and are hereby, requested to place the amount of money raised by them, and the pledges received by them, in the hands of the treasurer; and that the treasurer, acting under the advice of the Provisional Committee, be, and hereby is, authorized to secure such further subscriptions. as may be needed to cancel the debt; and that he report the names of donors, and the amount of their donations, to the next Council.

Resolved, That the treasurer be authorized to ask, at his discretion, offerings to the treasury for its present relief and future efficiency.

Resolved, That the treasurer be instructed to publish each year in the Year-Book the condition of the treasury, and the amounts received and lacking from the several state bodies. 1880, p. 31.

Resolved (1), That the treasurer, assisted by the chairman of the Provisional Committee and Committee on Finance, be, and is hereby, authorized to solicit of individuals and churches the sum of three thousand dollars to be held as a reserve to meet exigencies. (Note: The fund was raised and now amounts to $4,000.)

Resolved (2), That the treasurers of the state Congregational bodies be urged to the earliest possible collection and transmission of their respective collections. 1883, p. 25.

Resolved, That the Provisional Committee be authorized, at their discretion, to increase the compensation of the secretary.

Resolved, That the Publishing Committee be authorized to expend a sum, not to exceed four hundred dollars, for help under their direction in the preparation of the Year-Book.

Resolved, That so much of the arrearages in the accounts of the treasurer with the General Association of New York as has accrued from charging that body with what has been reckoned as due from the nonassociated churches of the Manhattan Association in New York City and Brooklyn and from the Welsh churches be charged off; and that we recommend that a strenuous effort be made by the New York associated churches to pay the deficiency arising from the fact that they have paid only on their resident members. 1889, pp. 38, 111.

Voted (1), That the treasurer, with the approval of the Provisional Committee, be authorized to abate the whole, or any part, of the unpaid dues accruing in 1891 and prior thereto, as may seem to him advisable. 1892, pp. 32, 281.

1. That the Council authorize the treasurer to present to the state treasurers the facts in this report, from which they will see the vital necessity of taking immediate and decided action to collect and promptly forward their dues to the treasurer.

2. That the secretary make a special communication to each state association, calling their attention to the facts here presented, and suggesting the appointment of men to the positions of state treasurers who will with energy and persistence attend to this duty in their respective associations.

4. That all moneys received from any source be deposited in such bank or banks as the Provisional Committee shall advise, to be drawn therefrom on checks which have been signed by the treasurer for the payment of bills which have been countersigned by a member of the finance committee of the Provisional Committee.

5. That the Provisional Committee have authority to contract for all necessary expenditures, and to appoint from their number, other than officers, a finance committee of three residing in Boston or its vicinity, who shall approve and sign all bills for payment. It is recommended that this provision be embodied in Article 5 of the By-Laws after the words, "until the next session."

6. That the Provisional Committee secure bids for the printing of the Year-Book and triennial Council proceedings, and that they accept the lowest bidders for good work. 1895, pp. 29, 84.

A memorial from the General Conference of Connecticut relating to the expenses of the National Council was received and referred to the Finance Committee. 1898, p. 17.

That the Council authorize the treasurer to urge upon the state treasurers the necessity of taking immediate action to collect and promptly forward their dues to the treasurer of the National Council.

That the Provisional Committee and the trustees of the National Council of Congregational Churches of the United States take into consideration the matter of increasing the salary of the treasurer. The committee feel that, while economy should always be used, the officers of the Council should receive adequate compensation.

That the Provisional Committee, in arranging for future Councils, should pay speakers nothing as compensation, and that the payment of their expenses be left to the discretion of the Provisional Committee. 1898, pp. 24, 97. 1901, pp. 21, 42.

It was voted that all resolutions involving the expenditure of money be referred to the Finance Committee before they are acted upon by the Council. 1910, p. 369.

PER CAPITA CONTRIBUTIONS

For the support of the Council the state bodies have been asked to contribute on the basis of total membership the number of cents per capita as follows: 1877-80, 1c; 1881, 1½c; 1882 and 1883, 1¾c; 1884-86, 2c; 1887-89, 1½c; 1890-92, 1½c; 1893-95, 1½c; 1896 and 1897, 2c; 1898-1900, 2c plus ½c for one year on account International Council; 1901-03, 1½c; 1904-06, 1½c; 1907-09, 2c; 1910-12, 3c; 1913-15, 4c; 1915 and 1916, 4c; 1917 and 1918, 4c; 1919 and 1920, 5c; 1921-22, 5c plus 1c for mileage; 1923-24, 7c and 1c; 1925-26, 7c and 1c; 1927-28, 7c and 1c; 1929-30, 7c and 1c.

(See also Delegates and Mileage Fund.)

Forbes, Rev. Samuel B.

Resolutions of appreciation of eighteen years' service as Treasurer of the Ministerial Relief Fund. 1907, p. 408.

Foreign Population

Resolved, That, to meet the pressing need of the hour, an endowment of $50,000 each for the Scandinavian and the German Departments of Chicago Seminary, and the same sum for the endowment of the Slavic Department at Oberlin, are imperatively required; and, because this is a question of national consequence, this Council recommends that an effort be at once made to secure such endowments. 1886, p. 30.

1. That this Council of Congregationalists respond to the cry of the Norwegian Mission Union with sympathy and material aid, and recommend that $5,000 be raised annually until the next meeting of the Council, in furtherance of the needed ministers' training school and missionary work, which they feel to be imperative to the success, if not to the existence, of the evangelical movement.

2. That a committee of five be appointed by this Council to communicate our action to the said union, and to do whatever may be needful to secure the ends sought in the movement.

Also, in accordance with the recommendation of the committee, the declaration on our relations with the Scandinavian churches was approved, to be made known to them, and also for use in our intercourse with them.

Voted, That, in the opinion of this Council, the religious work being done through the American Home Missionary Society for and among the large German population of our country is of very great importance and promise; and that we urge upon our churches that they contribute generously to endow our special work for fitting young men for the German ministry in our seminaries in Chicago and in Crete, Nebraska. 1889, pp. 35, 234.

Resolved, That the French-American College in Springfield, Massachusetts, in doing for the French-speaking people of the United States the work which our fathers did for us in founding our New England colleges and academies, and which later generations have done and are doing for the West and South, deserves the heartiest support and co-operation from our churches, and from all who love our country and the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1895, p. 19.

Report of Commission on Co-operation with Foreign-speaking Churches. 1923, pp. 41, 42.

France

PROTESTANTISM IN

Resolved (1), That the Congregational churches of the United States, as represented in this body, recognize, in the country from which the brethren of the French deputation bring tidings to us, a sister republic, endeared to us as American citizens by the imperishable memories of help given to our nation in the dark days of its great struggle for freedom and independence.

Resolved (2), That in what these brethren relate to us we recognize the good hand of God in answer to the prayers of the holy men who were in their day the faithful and true witnesses of Jesus even unto death; and in sympathy with these brethren we offer hearty thanks to Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, both theirs and ours.

Resolved (3), That in the tidings concerning God's great work which is now in progress in France we see the opportunity of our churches for the expression of their thankfulness by Christian helpfulness; also an opportunity for practical acknowledgment of those great and sacred obligations to France of which we have made mention.

Resolved (4), That in these practical recognitions of our obligations no time should be lost; therefore

Resolved (5), That we do cordially commend these our brethren of the French deputation to our churches as messengers to us of Jesus Christ; and that, through whatever channels it may be appointed that our helpful bestowments shall reach them, these be, both for abundance and heartiness, to the praise of our American Christian gratitude and liberality; that our churches, moreover, would do well to make these their generous bestowments, if need be, without personal solicitations from any quarter; and we do accordingly so exhort.

Resolved (6), That this Council do now pause in its business and unite in prayer to Almighty God in behalf of our brethren in France, in this the manifest hour of their God's merciful visitation. 1880, pp. 18, 19.

Frankfort Summer Assembly

It was *voted*, That the National Council notes with pleasure the founding of a Congregational Summer Assembly at Frankfort, Michigan, and expresses the hope that those in charge of it may accomplish in the fullest measure their purpose of maintaining a summer Bible School and Religious Conference, under distinctively Congregational auspices. 1904, p. 545.

Gambling

In view of the evident need of an awakened Christian conscience in regard to all forms of gambling, we call the attention of our conferences and churches to the resolutions presented by the Committee on Gambling, and recommend them to co-operate in such practical measures as may be possible for the legal suppression of this vice. 1898, pp. 19, 34, 322.

Gandhi

Greetings to and from. 1927, p. 227.

Gladden, Rev. Washington

A service in memory of Rev. Washington Gladden was conducted by Prof. Graham Taylor of Illinois, and the hymn, "O Master let me walk with thee," was sung. 1919, p. 20.

Great Britain

Committee of five appointed to present resolution respecting treaty with Great Britain. 1871, p. 42.

This Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States, at its first triennial session, desires to express and record its profound satisfaction that the difficulties between this nation and Great Britain, arising from the conduct of citizens and the government of Great Britain during the rebellion in this country, have been at length referred to an international arbitration, in place of the fearful arbitrament of war—a reference which warrants the hope that this happy mode of adjustment and reparation may be always adopted hereafter in all cases of variance between us, on which side soever the wrong may be. We record, also, our desire that steps may be early taken by the Congress of the United States, at its session now at hand, to secure among all the nominally Christian and civilized nations the establishment of a system of international arbitration.

It was *voted,* That the moderator and secretary of this Council be requested to send a certified copy of this Minute to any Christian bodies in other lands with which we may come into correspondence; and that the Hon. William A. Buckingham, chairman of this committee, be requested to present it to the Senate of the United States. 1871, p. 55.

See also Pilgrimage, British; Congregational Union of England and Wales, and International Council.

Greetings

From England, from North Staffordshire Union, p. 58; from Congregational Union of England and Wales, p. 59; from Welsh Congregational churches, pp. 60, 62; from Independent churches of county of Lincoln, p. 388; from France, p. 59; from Italy, p. 238; from New Brunswick, p. 58. 1865.

MESSAGES

To Rev. William H. Moore, p. 20; Dr. Joseph Parker, p. 28; President Roosevelt, p. 19; Mrs. William McKinley, p. 19; Ambassador W. W. Thomas, p. 32; Rev. Peter Paul Waldenstrom, p. 32; Rev. Henry A. Hazen, p. 148. 1901.

Telegram from the convention of non-Episcopal Methodists in session at Cleveland, Ohio. The following was voted: ''That is a very important convention, consisting of three ecclesiastical bodies—Protestant Methodists, Wesleyan Methodists, and Independent Methodists—that have seceded from the Methodist Episcopal Church and have dropped the Episcopal features. I move that the moderator be authorized to respond to this telegram.'' 1865, p. 387.

From Boston, England, p. 388; Italy, p. 245; Congregational bodies in England, pp. 58, 62; France, p. 59; New Brunswick, p. 58; Waldensian Church, p. 238; Wales, p. 60. 1865.

The Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec; from the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the United States, p. 34; delegates to corresponding bodies elected, p. 60. 1871.

General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church; General Synod of the Reformed Church in America, p. 19; General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America; Synod of the Moravian Church; delegates to corresponding bodies elected, p. 23; letters from General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church; the Welsh Quarterly Meeting of Northeastern Pennsylvania; Association of Christian Ministers and Churches of Kentucky, p. 25. 1874.

Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec; General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church; Reformed Church in America; General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church; General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church; Surrey Congregational Union (by vote of the Council, Rev. W. Hickman Smith Aubrey became an honorary member of the Council), p. 20; delegates to corresponding bodies elected, p. 51. 1877.

Congregational Union of Canada (by letter); General Congregational Union of England and Wales; General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church; General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church; General Conference of the Free Baptist Churches, p. 11; delegates to corresponding bodies elected, p. 20. 1880.

Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec; Congregational Union of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, p. 10; General Association of California (telegram), p. 12; communication from the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, p. 31; delegates to corresponding bodies elected, p. 21. 1883.

Telegram from Churches in Concord, New Hampshire, p. 25; African Methodist Episcopal Church; Congregational Union of Toronto and Quebec; Swedish Evangelical Mission Union of the United States, p. 12; greetings sent to National Conference of Free Baptist Churches in Marion, Ohio, and returned, p. 22; Congregational Churches of Newfoundland and Labrador, p. 30; delegate appointed to National Conference of Free Baptists, p. 35. 1886.

Congregational Union of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec; Norwegian Mission Union; Congregational Union of England and Wales, p. 18; General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (by letter), p. 35;

delegate appointed to the American Board among the Chinese, p. 52. 1889.

Congregational Union of England and Wales, p. 14; Swedish Mission Covenant (by letter), p. 25. 1892.

Congregational Union of England and Wales; Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec, p. 11; Woman's Home Missionary Union of Ohio, p. 22. 1895.

Congregational Union of England and Wales; Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec, p. 19; greetings sent to International Convention of Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, Nashville, Tennessee, p. 20; greetings to President McKinley; greetings to the Churches of Hawaii, p. 26. 1898.

Congregational Union of England and Wales; Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec; Congregational Union of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, p. 21; message to Hon. N. Shipman, p. 17; message to President Roosevelt; message to Mrs. McKinley, p. 19; cablegram to Rev. Joseph Parker, London, and reply, p. 28; message to Rev. W. H. Moore, p. 20; greetings to Ambassador W. W. Thomas and the Swedish Churches, p. 32; greetings from the Free Will Baptist Churches; greetings from the Methodist Episcopal Church, p. 36. 1901.

John Robinson Memorial Church, Gainsborough, England, p. 463; the Methodist Protestant Churches, p. 369; the United Brethren, p. 339; the Free Will Baptist Churches, p. 360; the Unitarian Churches, p. 358; the Churches in Bohemia, p. 367; the Congregational Union of Canada, p. 368; the Queensland Congregational Union, p. 365. 1904.

It was *voted*, That a committee, of which Rev. Philip S. Moxom, of Massachusetts, be the chairman, be appointed to express to Dr. Peter Paul Waldenstrom the regret of the Council that it could not hear him, and our greetings to Ambassador W. W. Thomas and the Swedish churches. Later the committee was completed by the appointment of William H. Strong, of Michigan, and Rev. Frank N. White, of Iowa, who reported as follows:—

The National Council receives with gratification the greetings of the Swedish churches conveyed by Rev. Dr. Waldenstrom, and deeply regrets that circumstances prevented his personal presentation of these greetings.

The Council also accepts with pleasure the greetings of the Hon. W. W. Thomas, United States Ambassador at the Court of Sweden—a native of this city—and hereby instructs the moderator and secretary of the Council to express both to Mr. Thomas and to the Swedish churches, represented by Dr. Waldenstrom, its hearty good will. 1901, p. 32.

Greetings from various denominations. 1907, pp. 409, 411; 1910, pp. 376, 382; 1913, pp. 383, 384; 1915, pp. 7, 390; 1919, pp. 26, 30, 38, 39; 1921, p. 365; 1923, p. 222; 1925, pp. 30, 41; 1927, p. 213; 1929, p. 205.

Grey Book

Note: The term "Grey Book" as it may appear in the records refers to the advance reports and other matter prepared in advance of the Council meetings since 1923 for the information of the delegates who are to attend.

Hawaii

Whereas, By act of Congress, and the signature of President McKinley to the annexation bill, the Republic of Hawaii will soon become an integral part of the United States, and the stars and stripes are henceforth forever to float over that island paradise of the Pacific; therefore,

Resolved, That this National Council of Congregational churches, assembled at Portland, Oregon, hereby extends to the churches of Hawaii, planted as they were by our missionaries, and continuing within the historic fellowship, a most cordial welcome to the Christian brotherhood of the states, together with its pledge of earnest co-operation in the work of our common Lord. In expressing this spirit of fellowship, the Council also cherishes the hope of greeting Hawaiian representatives at its future sessons as members of this body.

It was *voted,* That a copy of this action be sent to the Hawaiian churches. 1898, p. 26.

Note the first delegates from Hawaii were seated in 1904.

American Missionary Association work in Hawaii. 1910, p. 156; 1913, p. 137; 1915, p. 181; 1919, p. 298.

Greetings from and to Hawaii. 1919, p. 39.

Deputation to Hawaii. 1925, p. 112.

Hawaii becomes a constituent of the Extension Boards. 1927, p. 107.

Hazen, Rev. Henry A.

Since the last meeting of the National Council a familiar figure has disappeared from among us. Rev. Henry A. Hazen, D. D., was elected secretary of the National Council in 1883. Since that time he has served the Council in this office continuously until his death in August, 1900.

A sincere Congregationalist, he was ardently devoted to the interests of the Congregational brotherhood, and sought in every way to magnify its place and work in the world. He took pride in its history and achievements, and was jealous of its honor. He did much toward leading to a successful issue the movement which resulted in an International Congregational Council in London in 1891, and a second in Boston in 1899, and thus greatly promoted the close union of sympathy and mutual respect and affection now existing between the British and American peoples.

The Council desires thus to express and record its high appreciation of Dr. Hazen's long and faithful service. 1901, p. 148.

Herring, H. C.

(See also Secretary.)

Election as General Secretary of the National Council. 1913, p. 395.

Memorial Service. 1921, p. 350.

Herring Memorial Fund, 1921, p. 159.

Note: For oft recurring reference to the work of the Secretary, see indices of the various volumes of the minutes.

Home Board

Provision for the unifying of the work of the several missionary and educational societies working in the United States by providing a common Board of Directors for all of these societies. 1925, pp. 59-62; 1927, pp. 198-200, 207. (See also Benevolent Societies.)

Immigration

(See also Foreign Population.)

The following was adopted and referred to the Committee on Oriental Immigration.

Resolved, That this Council, holding fast to the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God, deplores the unchristian spirit of hostility towards those of any nation who come to our shores as immigrants, and who, because they are of a different race, suffer persecution and proscription, particularly as it is thoroughly inconsistent with the spirit of Christ that we who send missionaries to the East should be lacking in charity toward persons from the East in our own land; and we declare our hearty sympathy for all efforts on the part of our rulers and of our people to put an end to such unjust discrimination. 1907, p. 420.

Voted: Whereas, The Immigration bill recently passed by the Congress of the United States provides only a temporary check to the flood of immigration and

Whereas, The questions of European and Oriental immigration cannot be wisely settled by separate special action or emergency legislation, therefore

Resolved, That we favor the adoption by Congress of the Sterling bill or some similar measure looking to the establishment of a permanent commission with power to control and direct all immigration. 1921, p. 392.

Indians

Resolved, That we rejoice that the government has found it proper to call into its co-operation the aid of Christian bodies in nominating agents for its Indian work; and that we earnestly approve of every governmental agency tending to pacify and educate and civilize the Indian people. 1871, p. 58.

The committee to whom was referred a resolution respecting Indian affairs, and whether there is any reason for action by this Council, and if so, what, beg leave to report: That the American Board, through whom our denomination is operating for the evangelization of the Indians, at its late meeting in Providence submitted to its Prudential Committee resolutions touching the above matter, with instructions for immediate consideration and action; and, in the judgment of your committee, it is not best for this Council to take any action in the matter. In so reporting, your committee wish to be understood as considering the subject a very grave one, both in respect to the policy of the government towards the Indians and the rectitude of details in its administration. We fear that there is great occasion for shame and repentance for the past, and for immediate and general reform. 1877, pp. 23, 36, 45.

Resolved (1), That the Council declares that in its opinion the system of allotment of Indian agencies to distinct denominational care—that is exclusive of all other denominations—is inherently wrong and unjust, both with respect to the rights of the denominations to plant missions wherever it may seem to them practicable and obligatory, and with respect to the rights of the Indian to say what shall be the source and the character of his religious instruction.

Resolved (2), That a committee be appointed to confer with the officers of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and jointly with them to bring this matter before the proper authorities at Washington.

Resolved (3), That the churches represented in and by this Council be exhorted to keep the subject of the right of the Indian to himself, to a home, and to the protection of the law, in the public thought until by statute these rights shall be secured to him. Report in full, p. 196. 1880, pp. 14, 29, 141.

Memorial from General Association of Dakota on Indian affairs. 1883, p. 155.

Voted, That a committee of five be chosen to prepare a bill establishing a bureau of Indian education, and that this committee so present this bill before Congress as to insure, if possible, its passage. 1883, p. 18.

Resolved (1), That we are grateful to God that, in some measure, he is waking up our people and our government to a sense of their duty to the Indians; and that we urge larger appropriations from the government for the education of the Indians; and that it is the duty of Congress immediately to pass a general law providing for their settlement upon allotments, the sale for their benefit of their surplus land, and their admission to citizenship.

Resolved (2), That the great Indian question before the churches of the land is, how to carry the gospel of Christ to every Indian.

Resolved (3), That we feel that it is the duty of our Congregational churches to enter this work more earnestly, systematically, and thoroughly than they have yet done.

Resolved (4), That while we recognize the zeal and faithfulness of the American Missionary Association, under whose direction the amount expended for the education and evangelization of the Indians has risen in three years from $20,000 to $43,000, exclusive of government aid secured by it for our schools, the time has come, in our opinion, for the American Missionary Association to organize with special reference to carrying on this Indian work even more largely and vigorously; and to this end we suggest that the association at its annual meeting consider the wisdom of setting apart, or electing, one secretary, who shall give undivided attention to this Indian work; and furthermore, the multiplying of such agencies as may be needed to enlighten our membership generally on the great need and success of mission work among the Indians. 1886, p. 26. Report on, p. 345.

Comprehensive study of Indian question. 1929, pp. 44-52.

Indiana

Whereas, This Council is gratified to learn that the General Association of Indiana proposes at its next meeting to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Council held at Michigan City, Indiana, in 1846; and *whereas,* that Council was one of the first signs that our denomination was waking to the consciousness of its broader work and fellowship, and was the forerunner of the

Albany Convention and the Chicago Theological Seminary, therefore,

Resolved, That this Council appoint Rev. George S. F. Savage and Rev. Julian M. Sturtevant, of Illinois, to represent it at that anniversary. 1895, p. 40.

(In Whitehead's "History of Congregationalism in Indiana" is found the following: "The First National Church of Congregationalists was held in Michigan City in 1846. It was called a convention as was the succeeding one. Eight states were represented. There were delegates from Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York. This Council protested against the plan of union and it was abolished by the Albany Council six years later. The Golden Jubilee commemorating the organization of the National Council in Michigan City in 1846 was a notable event in Indiana Congregationalism." From a church manual of the Michigan City Congregational Church published in 1892 the following is clipped: "In 1846, July 30, a convention of the Congregational Churches of the West was held in this church. This was an event of great importance to the church and denomination. It was the forerunner of the present National Council. It set in operation the influences which freed our polity from the disastrous 'plan of union' under which hundreds of churches, planted by means of Congregational zeal and money, chiefly became absorbed with another and rival denomination. It also prepared the way efficiently for the establishment of our Chicago Theological Seminary.")

Industrial Committee

(See also *Social Service* and *Capital and Labor.*)

Address on the Church and the Industrial Problem. 1907, pp. 77-85.

Report of the Industrial Committee, formerly known as the Committee on Labor. 1907, p. 310.

Rev. Frank W. Merrick, Massachusetts, reported for the Industrial Committee, and the recommendations were adopted.

It was *voted,* that we approve the recommendation of the Industrial Committee that an Industrial Secretary be appointed, and that the necessary steps, appointee, support, etc., be left to the Executive Committee of the Congregational Home Missionary Society in communication with the Provisional Committee of the National Council.

The report, with its recommendations, was referred to a special committee consisting of Rev. Frank W. Merrick; Rev. William A. Knight, Massachusetts; and Rev. Graham Taylor, Illinois; and was discussed at different sessions of the Council. 1907, p. 407.

Recommendations of the Industrial Committee, as adopted:

(1) That the industrial committees of the several state associations study the child labor conditions within their respective boundaries, and try to improve those conditions.

(2) That such national action be taken as will effectively meet this national evil; and to this end we urge Congress to pass the proposed bill for a Children's Bureau for Research and Publicity, to pass the bill now before Congress for a higher age limit and for less hours of work for the children of the District of Columbia. . . .

(3) That the National Council heartily endorse the intelligent service of the National Child Labor Committee in its educational and legislative efforts.

(4) That the industrial committees of the several state associations be requested to give the subject of immigration their best thought and effort; that everything feasible be done toward a better distribution of immigrants, with a view to their welfare equally with the more symmetrical development of our own land; and, above all, that steps be taken, locally and through our various state and national societies, to the end that the gospel shall effectively reach all the unevangelized among them.

(5) That the industrial committees of the several state associations be requested to keep in touch with both employers and employees in and outside of their organizations, that everything possible be done to soften asperities between them; and that ministers and churches, so far as may be practicable, do what they can to bring about mutual respect, good will, justice, and co-operation between them.

(6) That the National Council make an Industrial Committee one of its standing committees, with a membership of not more than seven or less than five persons.

(7) That in view of the continued usefulness of the department of "The Church and Labor," in the work of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions, the National Council, in cooperation with the Congregational Home Missionary Society, or other body, provide a secretary for a similar purpose. 1907, p. 319.

Address: "Industrial Obligations." 1910, pp. 71-79.

Your committee therefore recommend:

(1) That the Congregational churches of America represented in this National Council adopt and declare as a basis for

their own attitude and action the declaration reported by the Committee on the Church and Modern Industry, to the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, and unanimously adopted by it at Philadelphia, December 2-8, 1908: (For these principles see Federal Council.)

The report of the Industrial Committee was accepted and the recommendations adopted. 1910, p. 382.

Institutional Churches

Resolved (1), That the National Council recognizes in the spirit and work of the churches known as ''institutional,'' a timely and characteristic expression of the one spirit of God in Christ, which has been the regenerating power in human life in all ages.

Resolved (2), That the National Council cordially indorses the general methods of these churches as susceptible of real and effective spiritual purpose, and welcomes them among the agencies which the church of Christ may legitimately use in the great work of city evangelization.

Resolved (3), That in regard to the limitations of these churches the National Council, gratefully recognizing the fruits of these methods employed in the sincere spirit of the Master's commission to seek and save the lost, and bidding the brethren Godspeed in their work, prays earnestly that the use of new agencies for the establishment of the kingdom of God may always be governed only by the one admissible purpose in all Christian work—the regeneration of men in the spirit and manner of Christ. 1895, p. 20. Address on, p. 118.

Inter-church Relations

(See also Federal Council.)

I. GENERAL

Committee appointed to request other ecclesiastical bodies to appoint committees on same subject. 1874, p. 30.

Oral report. 1877, p. 37.

Resolved, That the National Council deems it of paramount importance that all who profess and call themselves Christians, whatever their ecclesiastical relations may be, should bear in mind the new commandment which Christ gave his disciples; that we hail with devout satisfaction the progress of the spirit of fraternal union among Christian people of every name; that for the promotion of this end we acknowledge the obligation to avoid the magnifying of minor points of difference, thereby losing sight of the essential principles of Christian faith and conduct; and that we regard with earnest sympathy and approval the increasing tendency of Christians of different branches of the church to join hands in efforts to diffuse the blessings of the gospel. 1892, pp. 39-109.

1. That the two committees be continued as standing committees, the one hitherto known as the Committee on Christian Unity to be designated as the Committee on Denominational Comity; and the committee hitherto known as the Committee on Union with Free Baptists and other Denominations to be designated as the Committee on Union with Other Denominations. The duties of these committees shall be respectively such as are indicated by their titles.

2. That it be the duty of the Committee on Union with Other Denominations, in cases where it may seem wise to this committee to attempt specific union with any particular denomination, to conduct negotiations with such denomination by means of persons whom it shall select for such purpose.

3. That, in particular, this committee be directed to act in conference with the commission appointed by the Christian Quadrennial Convention, with a view to closer co-operative union, and, if it seem feasible, organic union. We suggest, also, particularly, that the committee continue the communications with the Free Baptists which have been hitherto in progress.

4. The Committee on Union with Other Denominations shall be understood to act upon the following basis:

(1) The acceptance of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments inspired by the Holy Ghost to be the only authoritative revelation of God to man.

(2) Discipleship of Jesus Christ, the divine Saviour and Teacher of the world.

(3) The church of Christ, which is his body, whose great mission it is to preach his gospel to the world.

(4) Liberty of conscience in the interpretation of the Scriptures and in the administration of the church.

Such an alliance of the churches should have regular meetings of their representatives, and should have for its objects, among others,

(1) Mutual acquaintance and fellowship.

(2) Co-operation in foreign and domestic missions.

(3) The prevention of rivalries between competing churches in the same field.

7. And whereas it cannot be expected that there shall be a speedy corporate union of the numerous bodies into which the

Christian Church of our own land is divided, we do therefore desire that their growing spiritual unity should be made manifest by some form of federation which shall express to the world their common purpose and confession of faith in Jesus Christ, and which shall have for its object to make visible their fellowship, to remove misunderstandings, and to aid their consultations in establishing the kingdom of God in the world; and to this end we invite correspondence with other Christian bodies.

8. And inasmuch as the work of forwarding such federation and union is a large one, beyond the leisure and strength of members of this committee otherwise employed, while the expense would be but small, your committee would recommend that such permanent committee as is asked for be authorized to find, if possible, some person who shall give his time to this work, who shall be compensated for his service by funds to be raised by this committee. 1895, p. 20. Report on, p. 282, *et seq.;* p. 293.

Report on, 1898, pp. 17, 360.

1. In respect of a closer organic union between the Congregationalists of Canada and the United States, we hail with delight this among the many indications of desire for closer fraternal relations between our English brethren and ourselves, and recommend that a committee of seven be appointed to ascertain more fully the wishes of our Canadian brethren in the matter, and, if possible, to submit to the next Council a plan to bring about, as speedily as may be, the consummation of such relations as shall be mutually acceptable to the Congregationalists of Canada and the United States.

2. That the same committee be authorized to act for the Council in furtherance of the plan suggested in the report of the committee on union with other bodies and in the report on comity, looking toward a Christian conference to be held in Washington, D. C., in the year 1900, and, as preparing the way for said conference, a preliminary meeting of all the denominations interested, to be called in New York City this autumn; and that this committee, or a delegation chosen by itself from its own number, be authorized to represent this Council at these convocations:

3. That it shall be the province of this committee, while not acting in the initiative in the proposed meetings above named, to do all in its power to secure the object in view; and, in addition, to obtain, as far as may be on the part of our churches and associations, the practical carrying out of federation and co-operation, such as has obtained in the places named in the report on comity, and elsewhere.

4. This committee shall also, during the interim between the tenth and eleventh National Councils, be the repository for over-

tures from any quarter looking toward Christian comity, federation, and unity; and shall cordially reciprocate the same in behalf of our own denomination, always foremost in these endeavors. 1898, pp. 17, 36.

Resolutions adopted on recommendation of the Commission on Comity, Federation and Unity: 1917, pp 59, 60.

The following resolution from the Genesee Association of Michigan, presented through the State Conference, was referred to the Commission on Comity, Federation, and Unity.

First, We heartily commend the action of the Commissions on Christian Unity of the Congregational and Disciple Churches looking toward the organic union of these two denominations.

Second, We request the Commission on Christian Unity of the Congregational Church to reopen union negotiations with the Methodist Protestant and United Brethren churches.

Third, and we further request that the said Commission invite the Baptist denomination to join with these four denominations in working out and putting into effect a mutually satisfactory plan of Union. 1917, p. 35.

Also on report of the delegation to the Inter-church Conference on Organic Union, the following was

Voted: That the National Council expresses its deep interest in the sane, practicable, and promising proposals of the American Council on Organic Union as presented through its own delegation. It believes that the evangelization of the world rests in a reunited Church and that the proposed delimitation of denominational sovereignty over the missionary interests of the Church may be a feasible first step in which Congregationalists may join with their sister evangelical Churches.

That the Council authorizes its Delegation, acting under the advice and co-operation of the Executive Committee of the National Council, to submit these proposals for the consideration of the Congregational churches at their next district and state meetings, requesting a definite vote before July, 1922.

That, in case of a well-defined drift of judgment, for or against the proposals, the Executive Committee of the National Council be authorized to report the attitude of our churches to the Council on Organic Union.

That the Delegation, or some equivalent body, be continued for another two years in order to represent Congregational interests in the work of the Council.

That it be requested to make a full report to the next National Council with recommendations, if they are needed, for final action. 1921, pp. 377, 378.

Declaration on Unity. 1923, pp. 220-222.

Be it Resolved:

That the National Council of Congregational Churches approves in substance the Plan of Union proposed by the American Council of Organic Union, and

That this action be communicated to the other Church bodies associated in the movement in the hope that they may also approve and enter into the Plan, and

That the Commission on Comity, Federation, and Unity, acting under the authority of the Council through its Executive Committee, be authorized to represent this Council in such conference and correspondence as shall seem to them practicable and wise.

Memorial from the Northern California Conference expressing hope of union with the Universalist churches, and action thereon. 1925, p. 27. (See also Universalists.)

That the National Council approves as its own the joint statement of relationships worked out by the representatives of the Universalist churches and of our own. It believes that the breach of more than five generations should rapidly be forgotten and expresses the hope that the closest practicable union of our separate interests may soon take place. And instructs its Commission in conference with the Commission on Christian Comity and Unity of the General Convention of the Universalist Churches, to work out a plan to be reported to the next Council. 1927, p. 212.
Report on, 1929, p. 12.

That the Commission on Inter-church Relations be authorized during the next biennium to do its utmost to draw together into a close federal union not only the two Christian groups with which we are in active conference, but all the churches of the Congregational order. 1927, p. 212.

That the National Council again place itself on record as being willing for the sake of promoting the larger unities which our churches earnestly desire even to surrender its historic name, or to return to its historic designation (Churches of Christ) which is still largely used among us. 1927, p. 231.

II. COMITY

Resolved, That this National Council recommend that all state associations or conferences, or, when necessary, smaller local bodies, where questions of comity are likely to arise, appoint a committee on comity to confer with a like committee of other similar organizations, or their proper representatives in other denominations, occupying the same territory, and that this joint committee adjust such matters of comity as may be brought before them.

Resolved, That this National Council appoint a permanent committee of eleven, whose duty it shall be to confer with the general ecclesiastical organizations of all other churches of evangelical faith, to secure, if possible:

1. An immediate means of settling, so far as may be, all questions now pending that have grown out of any action taken in the past.

2. Such a mutual agreement on the part of all general ecclesiastical organizations, that all new territory shall hereafter be occupied without the needless expenditure of any Christian force.

3. To arrange for such an interdenominational congress as the resolutions already referred to in this report contemplate, which shall open the way for a practical co-operation in such forms of Christian work as call for the concurring action of all Christian bodies.

In case such a congress shall be held, this proposed committee of eleven shall be fully entitled to represent our churches as represented in this Council, and to act in their behalf. 1886, p. 34.

Resolved (1), That the multiplying or continuing of churches in towns and villages beyond the capacity of the people to sustain them, under the auspices of different ecclesiastical bodies which are essentially united in their faith and teaching, is productive of deplorable evils. It involves a waste of Christian forces. It is inconsistent with the spirit of fraternal co-operation that should animate Christian disciples. It engenders sectarian rivalry and conflict. It presents in the communities where it occurs a spectacle of division, which operates in various ways to weaken the practical influence of Christianity and strengthen the hands of its adversaries.

Resolved (2), That the remedy for the evil thus described lies in the observance of the Christian rule of comity which forbids one ecclesiastical body from interfering on the same ground with the work which another has already undertaken and is faithfully prosecuting. To secure the observance of this rule, next to the spread of an enlightened Christian conviction on the subject, the most important requisite is proper official action on the part of general and local superintendents of home missions, and especially of the several ecclesiastical organizations with which they are connected.

Resolved (3), That a committee on Christian unity be appointed by this Council to communicate the foregoing resolutions, in earnest and respectful terms, to similar committees which have been or may be appointed by other ecclesiastical bodies, and to request that such action may be taken by these organizations as will effectually promote the object which the above resolutions have in view; and that said committee have power to act at their discretion for the furtherance of the purpose for which they were appointed. 1889, p. 20. Report on, p. 245.

6. We commend our brethren who have sought to promote comity by interdenominational organizations in the several states, and request the Committee on Denominational Comity to encourage similar movements in all parts of our land.

7. When it shall seem proper that a conference of the various denominations be sought, either for comity or for closer union, this shall be provided for by the joint action of the two committees, each consenting thereto. 1886, p. 34.

Resolved, That, while we unceasingly deplore the great iniquity which is done to the cause of our beloved Lord by the needless multiplication of feeble churches, we gladly recognize the continued and judicious efforts of the American Home Missionary Society to lessen these evils, and the faithfulness of its officers to the rule of the society—"not to plant a Congregational church or mission on ground which, in the proper sense of the word, is cared for by other evangelical denominations"—and desire to express our confidence that no sectarian zeal on the part of any of its superintendents will ever be allowed to overrule the claims of Christian comity. 1892, p. 39.

Statement of Canvass of, with reference to ministerial supply. 1892, p. 142. (See Ministerial Supply.)

The following was adopted on report of the Committee on Organization:

(a) That the churches in any community be urged to combine in the study, planning, and organization which are needed if they are to achieve their task, which is the Christianizing of the community.

(b) That in the overchurched and the unchurched village, town, or city suburb, where sectarian competition is an evident or an imminent catastrophe, all Christians of every name be urged in the spirit of their common Master to unite in a community church, choosing the name and the single denominational connection which will most surely conserve the faith and heritage of the largest number and most adequately serve the whole community.

(c) That for the promotion of such community churches our denomination through state conferences, national and state missionary societies, proffer utmost co-operation with other denominations, including the waiving of property rights and the surrendering of preaching circuits on the basis of a reciprocal exchange of fields, believing that losses suffered by each denomination in certain areas will be offset by the gains made in other areas and particularly by the total progress of the wide Kingdom.

(d) That our Commission on Missions be specifically designated to invite the co-operation of other denominations in formulating and adopting a program of interdenominational comity embodying these ideals and sending forth a common propaganda for community church organization throughout the nation in harmony with the noble achievements already made on the foreign field. 1919, pp. 44, 45.

That the National Council is unequivocally opposed to all un-Christian competition between churches and to the encouragement of such competition through mission aid. It pledges its hearty co-operation with other denominations in doing away with needless churches by allocating special responsibility for a field of service, by reciprocal exchanges and by other similar methods. It joins in supporting such declarations and movements toward comity as have been approved by the Home Missions Council. 1927, p. 231.

See also regular reports of Commissions.

III. FEDERATION

Memorial from the Congregational Association of Ohio, relating to an interdenominational council. Committee appointed. 1886, pp. 16, 21, 356.

Resolved (1), That affiliation with our denomination of churches not now upon our roll should be welcomed upon the basis of the common evangelical faith, substantial Congregational polity, and free communion of Christians, without regard to forms or minor differences.

Resolved (2), That this Council heartily agrees with the unanimous declaration of the International Congregational Council, held in London in 1891, in favor of a federation, without authority, of all bodies of Christian churches, as soon as the providence of God shall permit, for the manifestation of the unity of the church of Christ upon the earth, and for harmonious action in advancing the kingdom of Jesus Christ. 1892, pp. 40, 292. See Vol. 1898, p. 103.

That the propositions approved by the Council of 1898, on Federation of Churches, be again referred to a committee, the members of which shall be chosen with a view to their being able to give time and attention to carry out those plans, as far as may now be found practicable; and that such committee be requested to provide that proposals for federation, such as has proved so advantageous in Great Britain, be made to other Christian denominations in this country, either through their own initiative, or through the National Federation of Churches and Christian Workers, or such other agency as may seem available to accomplish this object. 1901, p. 35. Report on, p. 149.

1. *Resolved,* That the National Council heartily approves the plan of a national federation of the Christian churches of the country, as proposed by the National Federation of Churches and Christian Workers, and will appoint delegates in accordance therewith to represent our Congregational churches at the meeting for organization to be held in New York in November, 1905.

2. *Resolved,* That the delegates to be appointed to this Conference consist of the moderator of this Council, the members of its Provisional Committee, and others selected by the Provisional Committee to make the total requisite number of fifty delegates. They shall be chosen so as to represent our membership geographically so far as may be, with view to their attendance.

3. *Resolved,* That this Council authorizes the National Federation of Churches to make its preliminary arrangements in its behalf for the conference, in correspondence with this Council's Committee on Comity, Federation, and Unity. 1904, p. 547. Resolutions, p. 473.

The following was adopted:

Resolved, That the National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States, assembled in Cleveland, October, 1907, affirms its approval of the general purposes of the Inter-Church Conference and the election of delegates in accordance with the plan of federation; also that the Provisional Committee be authorized to take action in meeting our share of the necessary expenses. 1907, p. 406.

IV. FREE BAPTISTS

Resolved (1), That it is much to be desired, as an evidence to the world of the oneness of the church of Christ, that Christian bodies, holding substantially the same faith and order, should be organically united.

Resolved (2), That we recognize our Free Baptist brethren as possessing substantially the same evangelical faith as ourselves, and as holding and honoring the same form of Congregational church government, and that we shall welcome any wise action looking to the union of the two denominations in a single body.

Resolved (3), That it would be wise in many sparsely settled localities for people of these respective denominations, now separated and weak, to begin at an early day a union in Christian worship and the administration of the ordinance.

Resolved (4), That a committee of eight be appointed, whose duty it shall be to confer with any representatives of the Free Baptist body of churches, and to take such action as shall seem to them wise to further this Christian object.

Resolved (5), That we will send a delegate from this body to the National Conference of Free Baptists now in session at Marion, Ohio.

Resolved (6), That it also be made the duty of this committee to seek and promote fellowship or union with any kindred bodies of Christians, and to report thereon at the next meeting of the National Council.

Resolved (7), That we rejoice to ackowledge the fact that all Christians are members of the *one* church of Christ, whatever be the form of their organization, and that we will gladly co-operate in every effort to make this fact visible to the world. 1886, p. 34. Report on p. 351. Delegate appointed, p. 42.

Resolved, That the Congregational churches express to the Free Baptist churches their appreciation of the work which these churches have done and are doing in the cause of our Lord, and our cordial sympathy in doctrine and polity, trusting for a reciprocal kind feeling; expressing regret that churches so closely of the same form, substance, and spirit should not be formally one body, and hoping that a common experience will hasten the coming of such a union for its obvious advantages in the great work committed to us alike. 1889, p. 21. Report on, p. 252.

The National Council of Congregational Churches, having received with sincere gratitude the communication from the fraternal delegate of the General Conference of the Free Baptists, expresses its deep regret that an unfortunate accident has prevented the delegate from receiving a personal welcome from this body.

The action of the General Conference seems to lay a good foundation for union between the Congregationalists and the Free Baptists, and we hereby instruct our Committee on Comity, Federation, and Unity to enter as speedily as possible into correspondence with the committee appointed by the General Conference of the Free Baptists, with a view to closer relations with that Christian body. 1904, p. 360.

V. METHODIST PROTESTANTS AND UNITED BRETHREN

Whereas, The Methodist Protestant Church, a body including 150,000 communicants, and owning and operating a publishing house and a number of colleges and seminaries of learning; a body whch is wholly evangelical in doctrine, and almost entirely Congregational in polity; a body whose main strength lies in western Pennsylvania, southern Ohio, and Maryland, a section scarcely represented by our churches; a body already closely related to us by many representatives in our pulpits, has expressed through many of its leading representatives a desire to come into closer fellowship with the churches of the Congregational order; therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by this National Council to open correspondence with any committee or body representing the Methodist Protestant Church, and having authority to treat upon such matters, and ascertain if some arrangement cannot be made whereby these two bodies may be brought into closer relations to each other in fellowship and the administration of their work, which relations it is hoped in due time will result in organic unity. 1889, p. 255.

Whereas, The Methodist Protestant churches in this country, non-episcopal in their form of government, and numbering over two hundred thousand in membership, have much in common with the churches of the Congregational faith and order; and *whereas,* in various ways, there has been expressed a desire for a closer fellowship of these churches with our own; therefore,

Resolved, That the committee on comity, federation, and unity, appointed by this Council, be instructed to make proper overtures to the Methodist Protestant churches, not only for the purpose of closer federation, but with a view to organic union. 1898, p. 37.

Full report of committee on the union of the Congregational churches with the Methodist Protestant and United Brethren churches. 1904, p. 464.

Report of committee on comity, federation, and unity, referring to the plan of union with Congregationalists and United Brethren. 1904, p. 547.

4. *Resolved,* That this National Council heartily approves the purpose and the general plan for the closer union of the Methodist Protestant, United Brethren, and Congregational denominations, and that we accept the plan as presented by the committees of the three denominations, with the earnest hope that it may lead to a complete organic union.

5. *Resolved,* That a committee of three be appointed by this Council to confer with like committees from the other bodies, to

arrange time and place of the first meeting of the General Council.

6. *Resolved,* That the delegates to this General Council of the United Churches be chosen from the members of the National Council, should they meet at the same time and place; and be chosen by the several state delegations, according to a numerical scheme of assignments to be made by the Provisional Committee of this Council; the moderator and the members of the Provisional Committee to be *ex officiis* included as delegates; and that the Provisional Committee be authorized to take all such other action as may be necessary to arrange for the meeting of the General Council. 1904, p. 547. Resolutions, p. 473.

Committee on time and place for the General Council of Congregational, Methodist Protestant, and United Brethren churches appointed. 1904, p. 548.

The Committee of Twenty-eight reported on union with the Methodist Protestants and United Brethren as follows, and the report was adopted.

The National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States, in session at Cleveland, Ohio, October 8-17, 1907, having heard a remarkable volume of testimony from all parts of the country, hereby records its conviction that our churches will go forward to consummate union with the Church of the United Brethren in Christ and the Methodist Protestant Church.

We recognize in the Act of Union adopted by the General Council of the United Churches at Chicago the fundamental principles by which such union must be accomplished. The aim of that act is the desire of our churches. The act provides for a representative council of the united churches, combines their benevolent activities, and conserves their vested interests. It makes provision for the gradual amalgamation of their state and local organizations, leaving the people of each locality free to choose their own times and methods for the completion of such unions. It contemplates, as the result of a continued fellowship of worship and work, a blending of the three denominations into one. This is the end to which the Act of Union looks forward, and these are essential means of its accomplishment.

We recognize that, for the consummation of this union, each denomination is prepared to modify its administrative forms. Among our ministers and churches there have arisen divergent opinions both as to the interpretation of certain clauses and as to the effect of certain provisions in the Act of Union; while of some details therein proposed important criticisms have been made.

We recognize, further, that the other church bodies, when they convene for consideration of the Act of Union, may likewise find that certain of its features can be improved.

We, therefore, invite the other two denominations to unite with us in referring the Act of Union to the General Council of the United Churches, to afford opportunity for perfecting the plan of union; the General Council to report its results to the national body of each denomination.

We also recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. That the Committee on Comity, Federation, and Unity to be appointed by this Council be authorized to act with representatives of the other two denominations in procuring the reassembling of the General Council of the United Churches, and also to act in behalf of the National Council in aiding the consummation of the proposed union, and in the further advancement of the cause of Comity, Federation, and Unity among various Christian bodies.

2. That, in case the Committee on Comity, Federation, and Unity find it desirable to add to its members for special service, it have authority to do so.

3. That our membership in subsequent meetings of the General Council of the United Churches be thoroughly representative of our churches and elected in their state organizations, the securing of such elections on a proper ratio of representation in the various state bodies, and the filling of vacancies, to be in the hands of the Provisional Committee.

4. That a committee consisting of Rev. Drs. Washington Gladden, William Douglas Mackenzie, and William Hayes Ward be appointed to present this action to the United Brethren and the Methodist Protestant church.

The following was adopted on report of the Committee on Comity, Federation, and Unity:

Resolved, That the National Council sincerely desires that the negotiations for union with the United Brethren and the Methodist Protestant denominations should be carried forward, and greatly regrets that circumstances have delayed favorable action since the last meeting of the National Council. We desire that the Committee on Comity, Federation, and Unity to be appointed shall proceed with this purpose in such ways as may appear to them wise and hopeful, and that the Committee shall have power to add to its number for needed special service and to fill vacancies. 1910, p. 397.

VI. THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Reply to the Lambeth Conference and appointment of special Commission on Church Unity for negotiations with the Episcopal Church. 1910, p. 398.

The following was adopted on recommendation of the Commission on Comity, Federation, and Unity:

Resolved, That the National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States receives with genuine interest the report of the action of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and that a Commission of Fifteen be appointed to confer with a commission of the Episcopal General Convention and to report at the next meeting of the National Council. 1919, p. 26.

The following was adopted:

Resolved, That the National Council of Congregational Churches of the United States receives with interest the report of progress of its Commission of Fifteen appointed to confer with the Commission of the Episcopal General Convention, and that the Commission be continued to report at the next National Council. 1921, p. 377.

Concordat proposed for union with the Episcopalians. 1923, pp. 38-40; 219, 220.

A motion made by Dr. Newman Smyth that negotiations, regarding a Concordat of the Episcopal Church providing for supplemental ordination of Congregational ministers be laid on the table was seconded by Rev. Wm. E. Barton and unanimously carried.

On motion of Rev. Wm. E. Barton, seconded by Dr. Newman Smyth it was unanimously voted that so much of the ''Additional Statement'' of the Commission as relates to the Concordat be added to the report of the Commission and be approved, and that the remainder of the reprint relating to the Lambeth Appeal be referred to the Commission on Comity, Federation, and Unity to be named by this Council. 1923, p. 218.

VII. PRESBYTERIANS AND THE CLEVELAND OVERTURE

Resolutions adopted, as follows:

1. Resolved that the Council has heard with deep satisfaction of the steps taken towards organic unity by the Presbytery and Congregational Union of Cleveland, and affirms its desire to carry that merger to completion throughout the nation.

2. That the Council instruct its Commission on Comity to study the Plan of Union as presented by the Presbytery and

Congregational Union of Cleveland, and present that or some other plan to the Council at this meeting as a basis of conference with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the U. S. A.

The following telegram from Edw. G. Swiggett, Stated Clerk, of the Synod of Ohio, Presbyterian Church was read:

"Cincinnati, Ohio, Oct. 16, 1923.

"National Congregational Council,
"Springfield, Mass.

"Synod of Ohio Presbyterian Church voted that action looking toward union of the Congregational Churches and the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. is looked upon with favor.

"Edw. G. Swiggett,
"Stated Clerk."
1923, p. 196.

The text of Plan of Union, 1923, pp. 197-199.

President Dr. Frank K. Sanders, of New York, presented the following resolution, which was adopted:

That the plan of organic union contained in the Cleveland Overture be approved as the basis of further negotiations, and that the National Council instruct its Commission on Comity, Federation, and Unity to meet and confer with any Commission that shall be appointed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., to which body the same memorial is addressed, and this with the express hope that some plan for the organic union of these two churches may be arrived at and presented to the next meeting of the Council. 1923, p. 217.

The following resolutions were adopted:

That the progress of the Cleveland Plan of Union be viewed with sincere approval, the Commission on Inter-church Relations being hereby authorized both to foster it and to encourage a similarly organized federation of any interests in other cities which may be ready to make the venture. 1927, p. 212.

VIII. CHRISTIANS

That the Council herewith express its approval of the recommendation of the Commission with reference to the Christian Church and authorize a continuance of friendly conferences with a view of promoting the closest practicable relationship of our two churches. 1927, p. 212. (Report p. 79.)

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Presentation of the plan and procedure in considering it. 1929, p. 201.

The Chairman of the Commission on Inter-church Relations presented a resolution for later action as follows:

Voted, That Section I, paragraphs 1 and 2, and Sections II and III, of the plan of Union between the National Council of the Congregational Churches and The General Convention of the Christian Church, as presented by the Commission on Inter-church Relations and amended by the Council, be approved and adopted, subject to concurrent action by The General Convention of the Christian Church. 1929, p. 202.

The Commission on Inter-church Relations presented the matter of the merger between the Congregational and Christian churches for further consideration. The first Enabling Act found in the minutes of Tuesday's proceedings (See above) was unanimously adopted by the Council, whereupon Doctor Denison, General Secretary of the Convention of Christian Churches, was called to the platform and responded fittingly on behalf of the Christian Churches. 1929, pp. 205, 206.

Upon recommendation of the Commission the following resolutions were voted seriatim:

3. That the concurrence of The General Convention of the Christian Church in the provisions of sections I, paragraphs 1 and 2, II and III shall be sufficient to consummate the union; and that, when notified of such concurrence, the Executive Committee of the National Council is instructed to proceed with the responsible representatives of The General Convention of the Christian Church to plan for the next meeting of this Council as a constituent of the General Council of the Congregational and Christian Churches.

4. That, if The General Convention of the Christian Church proposes any amendments to the Plan as approved above, the Executive Committee of the National Council is hereby authorized to act for the Council in their consideration, except that essential details of this action of the National Council shall not be altered without reference to the next National Council.

5. That, in case the necessary concurrent action adopting the Plan of Union be taken by The General Convention of the Christian Church, the Commission on Inter-church Relations is authorized to co-operate with the similar body of the General Convention in drafting proposals for a constitution and by-laws, to be considered by the General Council of the Congregational and Christian Churches at its first meeting.

6. To recommend the provisions of Sections XXII and XXIII to our Churches, Associations, and Conferences, urging their prompt and definite plans for such readjustments as may seem desirable.

7. To recommend the provisions of Sections VI, VII, IX-XIV, XVII-XIX, to the favorable action of the various Societies concerned.

8. To approve for substance the details involved in I, paragraphs 3-5, IV-VI, VIII, XV, XVI, XX, XXI, XXIV, and XXV and to authorize the Executive Committee of the Council to negotiate with the representatives of the Christian Convention for any necessary modifications.

9. That such sections of the Plan as shall be approved by The General Convention of the Christian Church and, where their interests are involved, obtains the concurrence of the Congregational national missionary organizations and of the various local, state, and regional organizations, shall become effective at once, so far as this National Council is concerned.

10. To recommend to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions that it make suitable provision, as early as practicable, in the membership of the Prudential Committee for representation from the Christian body.

11. To recommend to the Home Board that it make suitable provision, as early as practicable in the membership of the Board of Directors (the Executive Committee of the A. M. A.) and its administrative Committees, for representation from the Christian body.

12. To refer to the Executive Committee of the National Council with power any needed adjustments of detail in the Plan of Union.

13. That the Commission on Inter-church Relations be empowered to develop plans looking toward the completion of this merger.

14. That the Plan of Union as a whole, as presented by the Commission on Inter-church Relations, with its amendments, is hereby approved. 1929, pp. 220, 221.

For text of the Plan of Union see 1929, pp. 232-237.

IX. WORLD CONFERENCES

Whereas, The Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States has taken the initiative in calling a World Conference on Faith and Order and is sending to the Non-Conformist Communion of Great Britain a commission of which Rev. Newman Smyth, Connecticut, is chairman,

Resolved, That the National Council of Congregational Churches of the United States cordially commends this commission to the Congregational churches of Great Britain. 1913, p. 391.

The following resolutions submitted by the Commission on Comity, Federation, and Unity were adopted:

1. Realizing that at this critical hour of history the Church sees as never before the necessity of magnifying the essential oneness of all Christian communions and of defining the basis of common service, we would express our earnest approval of the purpose to convene the proposed World Conference on Faith and Order as soon as existing conditions permit.

2. Furthermore, we would cordially respond to the call of the Advisory Committee of the World Conference for a preliminary conference of representatives of the Churches of North America to be held during the first week of January next, for the purpose of taking counsel together how preparations may best be made at home for this future and greater work of faith of the Church of God in all lands; and we authorize the Commission on Unity to represent our churches at this conference.

3. In the particular conference which has been happily entered upon between our Commission on Unity and the similar Commission of the Protestant Episcopal Church, with regard to the Lenox, Mass., proposals, we authorize our Commission to express to them our earnest desire and prayer that with conservation of the principles, both theirs and ours, the spiritual values of which have been proved in history, some orderly means may be found possible for a closer affiliation of our respective ministries in work and worship. 1915, pp. 37, 38.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States has received with satisfaction the invitation of the *Ad Interim* Committee of the Inter-church Conference on Organic Unity that the Congregational Churches be represented in the Council of Churches speedily to be convened by said *Ad Interim* Committee, and accepts the invitation on the terms that the conclusions of the proposed Council shall have no validity as affecting the Congregational Churches till approved and recommended by this Council; furthermore, that the Nominating Committee is directed to report the names of delegates to the proposed Council of Churches, to be elected by this body. 1919, p. 23.

The proposal for the universal conference of the Church of Christ on Life and Work was approved. 1921, p. 374.

That the Council express to the Continuation Committee of the World Conference on Faith and Order its faith in the outcome of the Conference at Lausanne in August next, and pledges its co-operation in any well-conceived plan for drawing all our churches of every type into the closest possible relationship of friendship, mutual support, avoidance of opposition and spiritual fellowship. 1927, p. 212.

Inter-church World Movement

(See also Congregational World Movement.)

10. That the Council, recognizing that a campaign of such magnitude will require an unusual initial expense, recommends to our Mission Boards that they underwrite the Inter-church World Movement and the plans of promotion adopted by the Commission just appointed up to a total of six per cent of the aggregate budget adopted, the same to be divided as the commission shall decide. It is understood that the portion assigned to the Inter-church World Movement is to be secured by that body from special gifts made to its treasury and that the portion used by the commission for the promotion of its work shall be a first charge pro rata against receipts secured under the plan of campaign proposed.

11. That the Commission on Missions be asked to print the recommendations as amended and adopted.

The following recommendation of the Commission on Missions was referred to the Tercentenary Program Commission:

That $30,000,000 of the proposed fund be raised as a national denominational budget through national denominational agencies and include amounts which have been raised or shall be raised for the Pilgrim Memorial Fund, for which a total of $8,000,000 is hoped, and enlarged contributions from the churches for the Mission Boards; the remaining $20,000,000 to be raised for our educational institutions as an integral part of the general effort. 1919, pp. 29, 30.

Authority was given to the Commission on Missions to appoint the Congregational representative in the Inter-church World Movement. 1919, p. 39.

The Inter-church World Movement as reported by the Home Missionary Society. 1921, p. 201.

The Inter-church World Movement as reported by the Education Society. 1921, p. 222.

International Council

CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF ENGLAND AND WALES,
MEMORIAL HALL AND CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY,
FARRINGDON STREET, LONDON, E. C., October 20, 1880.

MY DEAR SIR:—

I have pleasure in forwarding you a copy of a resolution moved by the Rev. J. B. Paton, M. D., and seconded by James

Spicer, Esq., I. P., and carried unanimously at the meeting of the Assembly of the Congregational Union of England and Wales held in Birmingham last week:—

"That the Assembly, looking forward to the celebration of the Jubilee of the Union in the year 1881-82, and anxious to make the occasion subservient to the interest of Congregationalism in all parts of the world, instruct the committee to take steps to secure as large a representation as possible at the autumnal meetings of 1881 of the Congregational churches of the United States of America and of the colonies of Great Britain and other parts of the world, as well as of Scotland and Ireland, with power to include in any invitation that may be issued the churches of the Evangelical Union of Scotland.

. . . .

Trusting that the presence of the Master may be felt in the approaching convention,

I am very sincerely yours,

ANDREW MEARNS.

REPLY TO THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF ENGLAND AND WALES

The committee to draft a response to the Congregational Union of England and Wales reported the following, which was adopted:—

"The Congregational churches of the United States, in Council assembled, earnestly respond to the invitation of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, brought to us by their honored secretary, Rev. Alexander Hannay, to unite with them in the celebration of the approaching Jubilee of their Union, and to participate with them in the discussion of themes of great and common concernment. We also recognize, with gratefulness to God and sacred pride, the fact that the two great confederations of Congregational churches, though separated by the ocean, are nevertheless one in the bonds of a peculiar Christian fellowship and in their profound reverence for the memory of our common ecclesiastical genesis and ancestry. And having appointed messengers to bear back to our Christian kindred beyond the sea our fraternal greetings and assurance of this existing fellowship, we heartily concur in the hope expressed that at an early day there may be secured an International Congregational Conference to promote the general weal of the churches of our faith and order in all parts of the world, to the end that in this age of matchless opportunity and infinite inducement the kingdom of our Lord and Savior may be the more worthily advanced." 1880, pp. 15, 23, 49.

Resolved (1), That this Council favors the proposition of the Congregational Union of England and Wales that we join by delegation in holding a General Council in London, England, at no distant day, "to deliberate on the grave questions affecting the faith and the church of Christ, which at present are in debate throughout Christendom; and to confer on matters which expressly concern Congregational churches."

Resolved (2), That the delegation of the National Council to said General Council consist of the Provisional Committee and twenty-five other persons to be appointed at this session, including a suitable proportion of laymen; that said delegation have power to fill vacancies in their number, and also to add thereto, if required by the basis of representation fixed for the General Council; and that they choose from their number a committee of eleven authorized to take part with the representatives of other bodies in all the preliminary arrangements for said Council.

Resolved (3), That we suggest that each state or general body connected with the National Council appoint one delegate to said General Council. 1889, p. 34.

Correspondence on. 1889, pp. 100, 101.

Resolved, That this Council approves the recommendation made by the American section of the committee of the International Congregational Council, appointed at London, to consider the question of a second similar Council, and advise that arrangements be made by the proper persons looking toward the holding of such a Council in the city of Boston at some convenient time in the year 1900. (Report of Delegates, p. 80.) Report on, p. 288.

Appointment of delegates to the second International Council. 1895, p. 21.

Recommendations concerning membership, Report on. 1898, pp. 20, 279.

Appointment of delegates to the International Council in Edinburgh, 1908. 1907, p. 424.

The committee on the recommendations of the Provisional Committee as to membership in the International Council of 1899 presented a report, with recommendations.

The report was accepted and the recommendations were adopted, as follows:—

1. That this Council elect ten delegates at large.

2. That the members of the Committee of Arrangements for the International Council be also delegates at large.

3. That the Committee of Arrangements for the International Council be empowered to appoint such persons as delegates as they may select to read papers before the Council.

4. That the remaining delegates be apportioned among the different states and territories by the Provisional Committee of this Council, in proportion to their church membership, giving to each state and territory at least one delegate, said delegate or delegates to be selected by the committee where there are no state organizations or where there are conflicting organizations.

5. That the Provisional Committee be empowered to fill vacancies in the delegations. 1898, pp. 17, 20. Report of committee, p. 279.

Report of delegates. 1910, p. 373.

On recommendation of the Business Committee, the Council adopted the suggestions and recommendation of the Committee on the International Council as follows:

> Your Committee outlined in its report of 1915 a plan for a meeting of the International Congregational Council in 1920. The recommendations then made are resubmitted and the request made that discretion be given the Committee to carry out the plan in case the war ends soon enough to make the Council a possibility. Until peace is declared further preparations of any sort are plainly impossible.
>
> The Committee would suggest that in case it proves necessary to abandon the International Council Meeting, the Executive Committee of the National Council be asked to submit plans to the 1919 meeting for a suitable observance of the Tercentenary in 1920 on the part of American Congregationalists.
>
> *Voted,* That an abstract of the report of this committee, found on pages 369-371 of the records of the 1915 Council, be incorporated in these recommendations. The abstract follows:
>
> "In the ordinary course the next meeting of the International Congregational Council would be held in the United States, and in the year 1918. A forecast of the meetings of the National Council of Congregational Churches in the United States shows that it would be very difficult for the churches of that country to entertain the International Council in any year prior to 1920, which is the Tercentenary of the arrival of the Pilgrims. It is suggested that the Council should take advantage of that celebration, and that its meetings should be related to those which will be held in celebration of the Tercentenary.

> "It is suggested that the session of the Council last nine days, the first part being given to historical subjects connected with the earliest settlements and the later developments of life in the New England states, and the place of Congregationalism in the history of this country. This review would occupy, say, from Wednesday to Sunday. From Monday to Thursday the program might take the ordinary form of a survey of the place of Congregationalism and some of the problems which concern it as a denominational movement and as part of the Church of Christ throughout the world. 1917, pp. 38-40.

Report of the Committee on International Council involving plans for the meeting of 1920. 1919, pp. 283-286.

Report of the Committee on the International Council was presented by President W. D. Mackenzie (P. 283) and the following recommendations of the Committee were adopted:

1. That the Nominating Committee of the Council be instructed to submit at this meeting the names of 150 delegates to the International Council and that the Committee on the International Council be empowered to fill vacancies in the list chosen.

2. That the Committee on International Council with the concurrence of the Committee in Great Britain be authorized to invite every Congregational Church in the world to send representatives to the Council, such representatives to be properly certified by the appointing churches, to be enrolled as corresponding Members and listed in the printed report. 1919, pp. 26, 29.

Proposed constitution for the International Council. 1919, pp. 210-215.

Election of delegates to the meeting of 1930. 1929, pp. 225, 226.

Report of Committee. 1915, p. 369; 1919, p. 283.

International Relations

(See also American Peace Society, League of Nations, World Court.)

It was *resolved,* That this National Council concurs with many other ecclesiastical bodies in this and other countries in a petition in behalf of universal peace, and authorizes the secretary to sign the petition for this object. 1895, p. 41.

Voted, That the memorials relating to a regular international Congress to promote the peace of the world, and all cognate matters, be referred to a committee of five, to report at this meeting. 1904, p. 534. Report on, p. 480.

Changes in Russia and China. 1907, pp. 4, 5, and 18.

Japan

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That we put on record our high appreciation of the friendship between the United States and Japan and our deep regret that recent local outbreaks and the persistent utterances of irresponsible newspapers have to some extent been circulated to excite distrust between portions of these two peoples.

We rejoice that the heart of our great republic beats true to this unbroken friendship of over half a century with Japan, and it is our sincere purpose to do all we can to remove misunderstandings, and, as expressed in the words of our first treaty with Japan, to perpetuate "a perfect and universal peace and a sincere and cordial amity between the United States of America and the Empire of Japan." 1907, p. 405.

That this Council expresses its regret at the treatment by mob violence of certain subjects of Japan while residing in this country and the persistent attempts of irresponsible journals to create ill-will between these two friendly nations. We desire to assure our Japanese brethren that the heart of Christian America beats true to the unbroken friendship between the United States and Japan for over half a century.

It was *voted,* That the Moderator, the Secretary, and Rev. John H. DeForest communicate this resolution to the Japanese ambassador, Viscount Aokai, at Washington. 1907, pp. 427, 428.

Committee on Chinese Exclusion continued. 1907, p. 402.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, The war now desolating Europe deeply concerns Christian people everywhere and has laid bare the fallacies in the policy of armed peace and has demonstrated the futility of armaments as a guarantee of international security and justice, and

Whereas, We believe that God through this conflict is revealing the essential need of world-wide brotherhood and that no just and effective program for permanent peace can be made, except in the spirit of the teachings of Jesus Christ, therefore,

Be it resolved, that, recognizing the weighty responsibility resting upon the President of the United States and commending the wisdom and strength he has shown, we appeal to him and to the members of Congress highly to cherish, in all their deliberations, the time-honored position of this nation as an advocate of peace and to take no steps toward increased armament not necessitated by grave considerations of national defense. We urge them to bend the energy of our government at this crisis in human history to working out, in co-operation with other governments, a plan of international organization that shall render the recurrence of the present world tragedy impossible. We trust that nothing may be done which shall hereafter hinder the Republic in any office of leadership or mediation to which in the providence of God she may be called.

Be it further resolved, that we direct the Executive Committee of this Council to co-operate with the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, the Church Peace Union, and with other Christian bodies of our own and foreign countries, in seeking to spread this sentiment in preparation for the new era of fellowship and to secure such action by our government and by other governments of the world as shall bring about enduring peace, international good will and the resort to reason and justice in a court of final appeal. 1915, pp. 41, 42.

Voted, That the resolutions on Peace and the Armenian situation be presented to President Wilson by a deputation of six men of which the Moderator shall be chairman. 1915, p. 43.

On recommendation of the Business Committee the following resolutions were adopted:

I

To the President of the United States:

We, the representatives of the Congregational Churches, assembled in National Council at Columbus, Ohio, rejoicing in the nation's purpose to seek no selfish advantage from this horrible war, but demanding reparation, so far as that is possible, to the defenseless peoples who have been ruthlessly despoiled, solemnly affirm our unwavering faith in the justice of the cause for which the nation is contending, and pledge to the President of the United States, to all associated with him, to our army and navy, to all our allies and to all democratic aspiring peoples of every land, our loyal support that the hard won achievements of humanity shall not perish from the earth.

II

To the Churches of Our Faith and Order:

In connection with the support we have pledged to our President and Government in the present crisis, dismayed by the disasters that have come through failure to apply Christian principles and profoundly impressed with the responsibility of the Church to affirm the sovereignty of Christ, we summon ourselves and you, our fellow Christians, to a new championship of the struggle for just and wholesome social relations.

We exhort the churches to a thoughtful consideration and diligent inculcation of the duties which spring from war conditions, to the exercise of all possible influence which shall soften antagonisms of race, creed, and class, to that guidance of thought, which, studying the causes of war, shall lead to championship of the economic and political principles that make for peace, to preparation for the coming era of justice, and that teaching which shall lead us all to view our newly-confronted national and international obligations with the mind of Christ.

III

Our Young Men

We ask all our people to carry upon their hearts the welfare of our army and navy. For these young men going out from our homes let ceaseless prayers arise. Let no pains be spared to provide for their welfare. Let every effort be put forth to guard them from temptation. Let them be left in no doubt of the solemn pride which we feel in them, as, on behalf of the world, they address themselves to their heroic task.

With our whole heart we would commend the National Government for the effort it has made for the care of our soldiers and sailors, not only in the interests of military efficiency, but also of their highest personal welfare; for the creation and encouragement of other agencies laboring for this end, especially the Fosdick Commission and the War Council of the Y. M. C. A., whose ably planned and executed work we would commend to our churches as their own best representative in the effort at co-operation which we are sure they will be eager to put forth. And on behalf of the Congregational Churches we would pledge to these agencies our material and spiritual support.

IV

International Friendship

Recognizing the imperative necessity of a new world order if Christian civilization is to prevail, we would labor and pray for the co-operation of all the forces loyal to Christ that Christian principles may be in fact embodied in international relations.

To this end we gratefully join with the leaders of the nations in recognizing the necessity of an International

Federation to maintain peace and look forward confidently to a world order founded on liberty and justice to all. With humility accompanied by a courageous determination we go forth believing that God's hand is still leading us as it did our fathers and that the struggle for a world brotherhood will not be in vain. 1917, pp. 52-54.

Resolved, That we deprecate the spirit of intolerance and injustice which at times finds expression in our country against those with whom we were recently at war. While not abating one whit our conviction concerning the great patriotic aims of the war, we nevertheless pledge ourselves to the promotion among all our people of the principles of Christian brotherhood and good will to the end that peace and harmony may prevail among the racial elements of our cosmopolitan population and that internal discord and acts of injustice may be dispelled. 1919, pp. 40, 41.

Disarmament

On recommendation of the Business Committee the following resolutions were adopted:

Voted: The National Council of Congregational Churches assembled in its biennial session, and representing a membership of 800,000 rejoices in the rising tide of sentiment directed against war and against the expenditure of immense sums in competitive armament at a time when the peoples of the earth are hoping for relief.

We welcome every evidence of a new order of things, and we express our confidence that the United States might make its influence felt mightily in the direction of disarmament.

Resolved, therefore, that we earnestly request our Government to initiate such efforts as may be necessary to gather a Conference of the nations for the purpose of taking steps looking to disarmament.

Resolved, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Secretary of State. 1921, pp. 384, 385.

For a Warless World

The National Council of Congregational Churches expresses its deep appreciation of the sacrifice and heroism of those who in the past have answered the call of their country and offered their all for the achievement of high purposes.

Believing that war as a method of settling international disputes or achieving national aspirations is both unnecessary and anti-Christian, the Council reaffirms its faith that Christ's way of thought and life is sufficient to overcome the causes of war, and lead the nations into a life of co-operative peace. The Council also believes that there is a special obligation upon the Church of Christ to organize and prepare for peace, to engage at once with all its power in a campaign of education against war as a method and in favor of other methods of settling disputes, to diminish among peoples the disposition to resort to force, to bring the people to the conviction that war is wrong, and to develop the will for peace. THEREFORE—

1. The Council officially adopts as its own the International Ideals of the Churches of Christ in America, adopted by the Executive Committee of the Federal Council December 21, 1921. (For text see 1923, p. 238.)

2. Since the thinking of a people depends largely upon the facts, real or alleged, at its disposal, the Council affirms the necessity of making available to the people the truth about international affairs, and hereby condemns all mendacious war-time and peace-time propaganda.

3. To this end, nothing is more important than the jealous safe-guarding of the constitutional right of freedom of opinion and its public expression. The Council therefore recommends that, ESPECIALLY in periods of national excitement, freedom of speech and freedom of the press, which are essential to clear thought and to right conclusion, be zealously protected.

4. The Council recommends to the Churches that there be systematically and concretely presented, from the pulpit, in the Church Schools, and in special study classes, ideals and methods of international good will and co-operation. 1923, p. 238.

World Court and League of Nations

(Which see)

Resolved, That it is the sense of the National Council of Congregational Churches that our Nation should rise above all political partisanship in its international relations; and that the world situation demands that America proceed at once to enter into the World Court, which was urged upon the people as a present opportunity and duty by President Harding in his last journey.

We believe that the United States should either enter into the existing League of Nations, or find some more effective way to take our part in bearing the burdens of the world, solving its desperate problems and promoting peace among men.

Education in Human Brotherhood

Christianity requires the nations to live, not in armed isolation, but in fellowship and co-operation. Such fellowship requires that we judge our European brothers with a Christian judgment, a judgment based on truth and justice and on the peculiarly Christian virtues of humility and charity. The frequent description of our brothers in Europe as given over to intrigue, hatred, and war, and of ourselves as so superior in virtue that we cannot work with these, our fellowmen, is not a Christian judgment, but a real menace to international co-operation. We recommend that our churches during the coming year make a determined effort to bring to our people a knowledge of our European brothers which shall go beyond their faults to their virtues, their difficulties, their needs, their efforts for right, and thus secure America's sympathetic understanding of other nations, as an indispensable foundation for peace. 1923, p. 239.

China and the United States

The Congregational Churches of America through their National Council assembled in the city of Washington, D. C., adopted the following resolutions:

Whereas, In accordance with the cherished ideals of American independence and democracy and in consequence of our deeply rooted conviction of the duty of brotherly relations between men of all nations, we are in full sympathy with the desire of the people of China to be masters of their own destiny;

Therefore be it

Resolved, That through the State Department we urge and petition the American Representatives in the International Conference now in session in Peking for the purpose of discussing Treaty revision to stand for such revision as shall recognize the absolute sovereignty of China.

Resolved, That we as members both of this Council and of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions do disclaim all special privileges accorded our missionaries and their work by existing treaties.

Resolved, That we are in favor of the abolition of extra-territoriality in China at an early date, the determination of which shall be subject to the mutual consideration of China and the Government of the United States of America, even if other Powers find themselves unable to make readjustments in treaty relations at the same date.

Resolved, That we favor and urge such mutual consideration of these vexed problems as will assure that the revision of existing treaties shall be undertaken co-operatively on terms of equality by China and the United States of America.

We record our conviction that War is contrary to the mind of the Christ; that the continuance of civilization demands its entire elimination and that it is the duty of all Christians and all Churches to find a Christian way to meet international situations which threaten war.

We note with satisfaction the marked advance toward peace achieved recently after years of effort by representatives of European nations. We rejoice in the spirit as well as the concrete results of the Locarno Conference, the prospective entrance of Germany into the League of Nations, and the earnest effort now being made by the League to avert hostilities between Greece and Bulgaria.

In view of this

Be it Resolved, That our Churches be urged to strive and pray with new zeal and persistence for permanent and universal peace.

That we take advantage of every agency now in action that promises to promote co-operation and peace among the nations.

That we urge our people through education in home, school, Sunday School and Church, to create in the hearts of all, beginning with the children, the desire for and the will toward international understanding and friendship. 1925, p. 48.

From A Statement of Social Ideals:

(1) The removal of every unjust barrier of trade, color, creed, and race, and the practice of equal justice for all nations.

(2) The administration of the property and privileges within each country so that they will be of the greatest benefit not only to that nation but to all the world.

(3) Discouragement of all propaganda tending to mislead peoples in their international relations or to create prejudice.

(4) The replacement of selfish imperialism by such disinterested treatment of backward nations as to contribute the maximum to the welfare of each nation and of all the world.

(5) The abolition of military armaments by all nations except for an internal police force.

(6) That the Church of Christ as an institution should not be used as an instrument or an agency in the support of war.

(7) A permanent association of the nations for world peace and good will, the outlawry of war, and the settling of all differences between nations by conference, arbitration, or by an international court. 1925, p. 53.

World Peace

Whereas, At this annual season of patriotic commemoration we remember and honor the supreme sacrifices of our heroic war dead, and call to mind the ideals with which we fought the war to end war, and

Whereas, We are mindful of frustrated aims and unfulfilled expectations following the great war, and

Whereas, We note with regret and alarm an increasing intolerance towards peace organizations and proposals and an evident drift toward another war in the thought and words of many commercial as well as military groups, therefore be it

Resolved, That the National Council of Congregational Churches call upon its entire constituency to recognize the danger to the peace of the world through the disintegration of democratic institutions, to give full support to a free press and to free speech in general and in the pulpit in particular, and to pledge itself anew to the study and the furtherance of all possible means for the establishment of enduring peace.

Outlawry of War

Resolved, That the National Council of Congregational Churches most heartily commend the suggestion of M. Briand, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, that France and the United States engage to renounce and outlaw war as an instrument of national policy in the settlement of disputes between them, and be it further

Resolved, That we urge upon our government and the people of the United States strong support for this notable indication of the new spirit in international policy, and be it further

Resolved, That we suggest to the President and the Secretary of State the feasibility of inviting all other nations to consider similar engagements by treaty, as the most immediate and promising step toward the final outlawry of war.

Latin-American States

Resolved, That the National Council of Congregational Churches record its sympathy with the national aspirations of the Mexican people and other Latin-American states, and its conviction that the delicate political, legal, and commercial issues involved in the present situations in these neighbor countries can and must be settled by diplomatic negotiation rather than by military measures, and be it further

Resolved, That the National Council heartily commend such seminars for acquaintance and information as have been conducted with regard to Mexico under the leadership of the Secretary of the Commission on Social Relations, as an effective means of creating and disseminating intelligent understanding of international problems, and promoting the cause of peace and good will.

China

Whereas, The present situation in China seems to us to be of great importance for the future of Christianity, and

Whereas, Our chief concern is not for the future of missions as such but for the welfare of the Christian Churches of China, and

Whereas, Our relation to the Chinese people is one of longstanding good-will which we both as American citizens and as members of the Christian fellowship wish to be continued and strengthened, therefore be it

Resolved, That the National Council of Congregational Churches reaffirm its confidence in the traditional American policy in China, to-wit: independent action, non-intervention, and constructive friendliness; and that we hereby express our strong approval of the patience and sympathy shown in the private as well as the official attitude of the President and the Department of State; and be it further

Resolved, That we commend to the further study of the American Board and its Prudential Committee the whole problem of indemnities in connection with the missionary program, looking to the formulation of a policy which shall be in full agreement with the principles which we profess and which shall furthermore be a clear evidence to Chinese as well as American Christians of our ideals for international adjustments in the Spirit of Christ; and be it further

Resolved, That we publicly and definitely affirm our unalterable opposition to military intervention in China and to the use of force in promoting business or protecting missionary work, and at the same time reaffirm our faith in conference and arbitration as a method of settling all international questions our belief in the inherent right of China's patriotic citizens to determine for themselves the future of their country, and our strong desire that America should immediately take the initiative in moving toward new treaties by inviting China to appoint delegates to enter upon negotiations with American delegates appointed for this purpose, and finally, be it

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by our General Secretary to the President of the United States, the State Department at Washington, the China National Christian Council, and the Officials of the Congregational Churches in China. 1927, pp. 222, 224.

The Business Committee presented the following resolutions for the Commission on International Relations:

Recommendations of Commission on International Relations

For the guidance of the Commission in the future we recommend that the Council approve and instruct as follows:

(1) That the Commission co-operate as closely as may be possible with interdenominational agencies, such as the Commission on International Justice and Good-will of the Federal Council and other well established foundations, such as the Church Peace Union and the World Alliance for International Friendship through the Churches;

(2) That the Commission seek not only to shape public opinion, but also upon occasions of sufficient importance to interpret the opinion of our fellowship upon matters of public concern as expressed by the National Council;

(3) That the Commission continue to act as an agency for the stimulation of the churches and ministers of our order to act in their respective communities for the creation and expression of a sound public sentiment and effective public opinion in international affairs.

International Ideals

The Commission on International Relations of the Congregational Churches of the United States herewith reaffirms the statement of International relations expressed in the Statement of Social Ideals adopted at Washington October, 1925, and presents for adoption the following principles to the Congregational constituency of the country, with the hope and expectation that each congregation will definitely adopt for itself the ideals set forth and make them an integral part of its regular Christian program:

(1) That the churches in all their departments endeavor to inculcate in the minds of their constituents, and especially the youth, a knowledge of the folly and inhumanity of war and to foster and extend the will to peace based upon the doctrine of equal rights and just treatment for all nations; and that Christian homes throughout our congregations be open to the students from other lands within our gates, that they may return to their respective countries with an exalted sense of the power of Christianity in the home and a new conception of Christian fraternity;

(2) That the pastors and members of our churches engage all practicable means at their command to acquaint themselves

with the internal conditions of other countries which affect the national, economic, social, and moral relations of those countries with the United States.

(3) That support be given to co-operative efforts of the Nations of the world in the interests of permanent peace and for a closer study of those conditions which, with the increased ease and rapidity of communication, affect all the peoples of the earth.

(4) That the Denomination stand for the new diplomacy which repudiates threats and violence as a means of settling international difficulties and advocates instead resort to conferences, courts and arbitration.

(5) That the Denomination condemns all propaganda of hate and stands against the employment of the churches for the support of war; that use be made of all available means to remove race and national prejudice and to cultivate the spirit of sympathy and brotherhood with the peoples of all other races in recognition of the obligation and privilege to share with all nations the ideals taught by Jesus Christ.

The report was accepted and the recommendations adopted as a whole. 1927, pp. 229, 230.

(See also Africa, Armenians, China, France, Japan, Great Britain.)

Inter-American Relations

Whereas, Conciliation as provided by the so-called Bryan Treaties might fail, and

Whereas, A more effective step for the preservation of peace was taken under Secretary Kellogg through the negotiations of the General Treaty of Inter-American Arbitration signed by our Government, January 5, 1929, therefore be it

Resolved, That the National Council of Congregational Churches respectfully petitions the Senate of the United States for prompt ratification of the aforesaid treaty; and directs its own General Secretary to transmit copies of this resolution to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, the President of the United States, and the State Department in Washington.

Regulation of the Export of Arms

Whereas, The preservation of peace and security is complicated by problems arising out of the manufacture, sale, and exportation of arms, and

Whereas, Certain more important foreign Governments have declared in effect that they could not ratify the Convention on the International Trade in Arms signed at Saint Germain, in 1919, unless the United States, a leading arms manufacturer, did so; and

Whereas, The President of the United States transmitted to the Senate, on May 22d, 1928, a new Convention on the International Trade in Arms, revised to meet certain American objections; and

Whereas, This revised Convention, while prohibiting the export of arms and implements of War to private individuals without license from their own governments, does allow foreign governments to import such arms under due conditions of publicity, therefore be it

Resolved, That the National Council of Congregational Churches respectfully petitions the Senate of the United States to ratify the said revised Convention as a step toward removing one of the fundamental obstacles to permanent peace, and directs our General Secretary to transmit the above resolution to the Senate of the United States, the President of the United States, and the State Department in Washington.

Against Using Poison Gas

Whereas, The use of poisonous gases has added new horrors to warfare and has introduced a weapon that strangles and slays indiscriminately, not merely combatants, but also women and children, therefore be it

Resolved, That the National Council of Congregational Churches respectfully petitions the Senate of the United States to ratify the Protocol forbidding the use in War of Poison Gas, signed at Geneva on the 17th of June, 1925, and orders the General Secretary of this Council to transmit this resolution to the Senate, the President of the United States and the State Department in Washington. 1929, pp. 223, 224.

Ives, Joel

The Executive Committee presented the following resolution which was adopted:

> In view of the retirement of Rev. Joel S. Ives, from the treasurership at the close of the present fiscal year, that the Council recognize the fidelity and efficiency with which he has discharged the duties of his office for the past eight years and the keen interest he has shown in the welfare of

our churches; and the Council extends to him hearty assurance of fraternal affection and esteem. 1915, p. 45.

Japan

(See also International Relations.)

The following resolution was offered by Rev. Sidney L. Gulick, Japan, and was adopted:—

The Christians of the Congregational Churches assembled in their National Council at Des Moines, Iowa, United States of America, to our Christian brothers in the Kumiai Churches of Japan, Greeting:

It is ever with profound interest that we hear of the growth of your churches and the progress of the kingdom of righteousness, truth, and love among your people. In this time of your terrible national struggle, it is fitting that we express to you our deepest sympathy and good will. We earnestly pray that the God of nations and the God of battles will so overrule this fearful baptism of blood through which you are passing as to deepen your spiritual life, establish more firmly among you the kingdom of God, bring untold blessings to the three sister nations of Russia, China, and Japan, and finally issue in the permanent peace of the world.

We thank God for the noble work you have already done in proclaiming the glorious gospel of the Prince of Peace, and the missionary zeal which has led you to reach out a helping hand to a neighboring people in the evangelization of Korea.

We pray that God may richly bless your every work in his name, and that through your fidelity to Christ and zeal in his cause you may speedily see a mighty increase in the number of those who are his followers. We look forward to the day when all men of every race shall dwell together in universal peace and mutual help through the spiritual unity of a human brotherhood and a divine fatherhood. 1904, p. 553.

See under International Relations, resolution of 1907, pp. 405 and 427.

On recommendation of the Business Committee the following resolution was adopted:

Whereas, The Kumiai Churches of Japan, our neighbors across the Pacific Ocean, are a body of Christians closely akin to us, and

Whereas, We believe that every means by which the inherent good will of American Christians may be expressed and every means by which ill-will and misunderstanding between Japan and the United States may be averted should be utilized, be it

Resolved, That the Nominating Committee of this National Council be directed to nominate a delegate who may proceed to Japan during the next two years and present to the national meeting of the Kumiai body in Japan the cordial greeting and good will of the Congregational people of the United States. 1917, p. 61.

Expression of sympathy on occasion of earthquake in Japan. 1923, p. 237.

John Milton Foundation for the Blind

Approved, 1929, p. 230.

Kidder College

Recognized for honorary membership. 1925, p. 21.

Labor

(See also Capital.)

Whereas, The fullest Christian fellowship is dependent upon direct acquaintance and personal understanding between representative groups, be it

Resolved, That our Congregational clergy and laity be urged to make special efforts to know the leaders of organized labor in their communities, as well as business leaders, and through mutual conferences, forums, and other channels, seek to promote a spirit of appreciation and good will between labor and the church. 1927, p. 221.

Law and Order

(See also Lynching and Prohibition.)

Resolved, That this Council wishes to commend the clear thinking and courageous purpose of President Wilson in relation to the threatened coal strike, Governor Coolidge of Massachusetts in his attitude toward the police strike in Boston, and all executive officials who today are standing for the maintenance of order and constituted authority.

Resolved, That the National Congregational Council in session at Grand Rapids, Michigan, recognizes the importance of the President's message upon the threatened coal strike and pledges its influence in support of his purpose to enforce the law and to protect the interests of all the people. 1919, p. 40.

Whereas, In many parts of the country there is an apparent increase in disregard for law and order, manifested in criminal acts, a recrudescence of lynching, mob outrages, and personal violence, and

Whereas, The churches have a special responsibility in the shaping of public opinion in regard to law enforcement, be it

Resolved, That the National Council urge our churches, and church members to act wherever and however possible in their respective communities and states to support all public officials in the protection of lives and property of all citizens, and the securing of speedy justice through due process of law. 1927, p. 221.

That President Hoover is to be heartily applauded for his determination to enforce the laws of the land and is entitled to the support of all the members of all the Congregational Churches in the United States, rich as well as poor, high as well as low. (Unanimous vote.) 1929, p. 228.

Whereas, Good citizenship has its foundation in law observance, and

Whereas, The substitution of private will for public law is selective anarchy and contains the seeds of destruction of all order and authority and is the essence of oppression and mob rule, and

Whereas, The liquor traffic aided by the ''wet'' press support and defend the practice of nullification which is practical treason to the Constitution and government of the people, and

Whereas, President Hoover in his inaugural and in his address to the Associated Press, together with his appointment of a National Commission on Law Observance and Enforcement, gives proof of his understanding of this national menace, and his courageous purpose to maintain in so far as he has power, the integrity of the Constitution and the public law, now therefore be it

Resolved, By the National Council of The Congregational Churches in biennial convention assembled that we heartily endorse the declarations and action of President Hoover in this crisis, and we urge upon all the loyal men and women of our country the support of the President in his effort to give full force and effect to the true American Constitutional Doctrine as announced by Washington and upheld by Lincoln, to wit: ''The Constitution which at any time exists, until changed by the authentic and explicit act of the whole people is sacredly obligatory upon all'' and co-operation in all ways with President Hoover in his effort to reestablish respect for and obedience to the public law of the people of the United States; further, be it

Resolved, That we urge our churches to co-operate with those of other denominations in a nation-wide observance on June 30th, as ''Support the President Day,'' and ask our ministers to preach upon ''Law Observance'' on that day.

The Council adopted the report and the resolutions. 1929, p. 229.

Laymen

Resolved, That for purposes of nomination for other positions connected with the Council, ''ministers'' shall be deemed to be those who have been ordained and ''laymen'' those who have not been ordained. 1919, p. 37.

Recommendation that representation be equal between laymen and ministers. Constitution, Article III, 1 (c).

That a direct appeal be made to conferences and associations to increase the number of lay delegates to the Council. 1919, p. 20.

Laymen's breakfast, with resolutions on pastors' salaries. 1919, p. 23.

Memorial from laymen regarding Recruiting for the Ministry. 1921, p. 376.

Report of Laymen's Commission on the status of the ministry. 1921, p. 32.

Laymen's Advisory Committee. See 1929, p. 36.
(See also Brotherhood and Men's Work.)

League of Nations

(See also International Relations.)

The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the National Council of Congregational Churches, now in session at Grand Rapids, Michigan, voices its gratitude to Almighty God for the triumph of right over might and the return of peace.

Resolved, That the Council favors the ratification and adoption of the peace treaty and the covenant of the League of Nations without amendments and with only such reservations as shall strengthen the moral influence of the United States. While not indifferent to imperfections and anticipating adjustments under the test of actual operation, the Council regards the League as substituting reliance on moral principles effectively organized for dependence on military policy subject to the balance of power. The Council supports the covenant as the only political instrument now available by which the spirit of Jesus Christ may find wider scope in practical application to the affairs of nations. Through this covenant the conscience of mankind registers its determination to renounce aggressive warfare, and the United States assumes responsibility in promoting freedom and justice among the peoples of the earth.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent by telegraph to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the United States Senate.

Voted, That a copy of the resolutions be sent also to President Woodrow Wilson.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the ministers present be urged to read the resolutions on the League of Nations to their congregations on the first Sunday after their return and to preach upon it, also to have the resolutions printed in the local press and in every way to give the widest publicity to it. 1919, pp. 21, 22.

That the sooner our government seeks membership in the League of Nations the better it will be for a world trying desperately to organize itself. 1929, p. 228.

Legacies

Knowles' Legacy. 1886, pp. 22, 96, 97.

It is to be observed that for the first time legacies have appeared in the funds of the Corporation to be held for the National Council, namely, the fund for the Commission on Evangelism from the Chapman estate, and that from the George L. Dunham fund, regarding which the testator expressed the wish that it might be kept as a permanent fund but did not make this obligatory. From Report of Executive Committee. 1929, p. 135.

Lincoln College

Commendations of the proposal to establish Lincoln College as a memorial to Abraham Lincoln and a monument to the overthrow of slavery. 1865, p. 484. (The college referred to is now known as Washburn College, having been given that name in 1868. Its charter declares the purpose of the college is "to promote the diffusion of knowledge and the advancement of virtue and religion, and the incorporation of an institution which shall commemorate the triumph of liberty over slavery . . . to afford to all classes without distinction of color the advantages of a liberal education.")

Lynching

(See also Law and Order.)

The following were appointed a committee on lynching: Rev. James W. Strong, of Minnesota; Rev. Doremus Scudder, of Massachusetts; and Rev. George W. Henderson, of Louisiana. The committee presented a report with a recommendation, which was accepted; and the recommendation, that the moderator and secretary sign the report and transmit it to such religious bodies as in their judgment may seem wise, was adopted. 1895, p. 40.

The National Council of the Congregational Churches, now holding its eleventh session, Portland, Maine, viewing with deep solicitude the growing spirit of anarchy, the prevalence of mob violence, and the disposition of unauthorized and illegal bodies of men to inflict punishment without due process of law, not infrequently confounding the innocent with the guilty, and adjudging the death penalty to light as well as to serious offenses, and realizing that these evils have become so great as to constitute a serious menace to orderly government and a reproach to our Christian civilization, declares:—

1. That this spirit of lawlessness, with its grave consequences, is no longer local, but, in a greater or less degree, is manifesting itself in all parts of the country; that the crime of lynching is not a question of race but of humanity, and is, therefore, the concern of the whole country.

2. That we especially commend the spirit of the law of Ohio, which makes communities wherein life has been sacrificed by the action of mobs liable for damages, and the clause in the constitution now before the people of Alabama for ratification, which holds sheriffs to a stricter accountability for the protection of their prisoners; and that the courageous and noble conduct of Governor Lougino, of Mississippi, and of Governor Candler, of Georgia, in their efforts to suppress the crime of lynching, commands our heartiest admiration and profoundest respect.

3. That we earnestly appeal to the press and the pulpit and the bar, and to law-abiding citizens everywhere, North and South, East and West, to aid actively and vigorously in creating and sustaining a public sentiment which shall brand lynching as a crime, and hold up lynchers to social scorn and ostracism and to public reprobation. 1901, p. 31.

Recommendation to Congress of the passage of a law making lynching a national offense. 1919, p. 40.

Magazines, Missionary

(See Periodicals.)

Mansfield College, Oxford, England

Resolved (1), That we rejoice with our brethren that God has put it into their hearts to found Mansfield College in Oxford, and has led them step by step to so large and noble a fulfillment of their pious purpose.

Resolved (2), That we devoutly supplicate the blessing of the great Head of the church upon that college, beseeching him so to endow its honored principal, and all who may be associated with him, and who in the ages to come may succeed him and them, that its educating work for the kingdom of Christ shall be good, and only good, and that continually, so that its founders and friends of today may say of it, with even a larger hope, as in 1584 Sir Walter Mildmay said to Queen Elizabeth of Emmanuel College in Cambridge when he had founded it, "I have set an acorn which, when it becomes an oak, only God can tell how glorious shall be the fruit thereof."

Resolved (3), That these resolutions be signed by the moderator and secretary of this Council, and cabled to Rev. Charles Ray Palmer, of Bridgeport, Connecticut, now in Oxford, with the request that, as a specially commissioned messenger from this body for that purpose, he present the same to the authorities of Mansfield College. 1889, p. 28.

Manual of Doctrine and Polity

(See also Creeds, Polity.)

Resolved, That the declaration of faith adopted by this Council, and the confession of faith adopted by our synod at Boston in 1680, be printed with the report that the Committee on Polity may make, that our doctrine and polity may go out together, and be easily obtained by every one of the churches.

Ordered, That the Committee on Church Polity be authorized, if they think best, to issue an epitome or digest of their large work for use and circulation among the churches, the copyright to be held in trust by the directors of the American Congregational Association. 1865, p. 496. Report on, pp. 101, 117, 129.

It was *resolved,* That the committee appointed by the Council of 1865, on a declaration of church polity, be urged to complete their work as speedily as possible. 1871, p. 41.

Whereas, There has come up from all quarters earnest calls for some brief manual of doctrine and polity for use in the families and Sunday Schools of our churches, and it is understand that such a manual is in course of preparation by the Congregational Publishing Society, Therefore, *resolved,* That the Council recommend the completion of the proposed manual as speedily as is practicable.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to whom the work may be submitted for approval, whose sanction may give currency to the manual, not as a book of binding authority, but as a means of general instruction commended to the churches for its real merits. 1871, p. 41.

Whereas, There is great need of a concise manual of Congregationalism for the facilitating of the organization of new churches on the principles of our order, be it therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of seven be appointed to prepare such manual and report the same to the next Council. 1892, p. 34.

The committee on the report of the committee on a manual presented a report with recommendations. The report was accepted, and the recommendations were adopted as follows:

1. That the present committee, who have proposed this manual, be continued, with power to add to their number, if they shall think it desirable to obtain the co-operation of others.

2. That the committee be requested to publish, at their earliest convenience, through the Publishing Society, an edition of their work adapted to general circulation in an inexpensive form; and that they be given power to make such alterations and emendations as may finally be deemed by them advisable after receiving and weighing carefully any suggestions of improvement which may come from brethren in any part of the land, and for which purpose copies have already been distributed to the several members of this Council. The manual thus perfected is to be signed by the members of the committee, and by such other persons as may be joined in consultation; and will carry, it is hoped, such weight as may be found in the character, learning, and practical wisdom of the brethren whose names shall be thus appended. 1895, pp. 27, 96.

It was *voted,* That the committee in charge of the manual be authorized, in printing therein the declaration of faith known as that of 1883, to omit any words which interfere with the conscience of believers as pertaining to the mode and subjects of baptism. 1895, p. 34. Report on, p. 309; Manual, p. 313.

The committee on the manual presented a report, which was accepted, and it was *voted,* That the manual be set forth to the churches as a trustworthy summary of approved Congregational usage. 1898, p. 23.

Whereas, A large section of the church appears to feel the need of some recognized manual for the use of pastors or parents in the Christian instruction of our youth,

Resolved, That a committee be appointed, a majority of whom shall be pastors, whose duty it shall be to prepare such a manual for the consideration of this Council at its next meeting. 1901, p. 34.

Marietta College

Whereas, The ordinance of 1787 secured the blessings of education and freedom to the great empire now embraced within the limits of the Northwest Territory; and,

Whereas, The passage of that ordinance was secured largely through the influence of a Congregational clergyman of New England, and the first settlement in that territory was made at Marietta, Ohio, by Christian men who organized the Congregational church of Marietta, which, as we suppose, is the oldest Protestant church within the bounds of that territory; and *whereas,* it is understood that a centennial celebration will be held at Marietta, April 7, 1888, at which celebration it seems to be eminently proper that there should be a recognition of the influence of these Christian men from New England in the development of this part of the country; therefore,

Resolved, That this Council recognizes the national importance of the coming centennial celebration at Marietta, Ohio, and does hereby appoint the following committee to attend that celebration as our representatives: Lorrin A. Cooke, of Connecticut, moderator; James B. Angell, of Michigan; Rev. Aaron L. Chapin, of Wisconsin; Rev. Julian M. Sturtevant, of Ohio; Rev. Josiah Strong, of Ohio. 1886, p. 39.

The delegates to the Marietta centennial presented a report, which was accepted. 1889, p. 32. Report on, p. 259.

Marriage and Divorce

The National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States hereby put on record their deep concern at the alarming increase of divorce throughout the land. Believing that marriage is an institution intended of God to be as permanent as the life of the parties who enter upon it, we deplore the dissolution of its bonds by human authority, except for the one cause sanctioned by the Savior. We invite the renewed attention of both ministers and churches to the sanctity of this institution, and urge them to do what lies in their power to put an end to the present widespread and corrupting practice of divorce for causes which find no sanction in the Word of God. 1880, p. 31.

This Council, having at its last session expressed its deep concern at the alarming increase of divorce throughout the land, deplored the dissolution of the bonds of marriage except for the one cause mentioned by our Savior, and commended the then existing evils growing in the state from this source to the urgent and prayerful attention of the good, now earnestly reiterates its convictions then uttered, and warmly commends as doing an admirable work in this matter the New England Divorce Reform League and the labors of the Rev. Samuel W. Dike, its secretary. 1883, p. 29.

Resolved (1), That this National Council of Congregational Churches hereby reaffirm the resolutions of former Councils respecting the serious evils affecting the family, especially those growing out of the laws on the subject of marriage and divorce.

Resolved (2), That we urge upon Congress and the several states and territories the great importance of the careful collection and official publication of social statistics, particularly those throwing light upon laws of these two classes touching the family and their effects; and that we would respectfully, but earnestly, call the attention of Congress to the need of its doing this work for the territories and the District of Columbia, and for the entire country, so far as it may be necessary in order to give the government and all citizens an intelligent basis of action in their respective spheres of duty; and with a view to the ultimate solution of the problem presented by the present conflict of laws.

Resolved (3), That we respectfully invite the attention of the President and of Congress to the need of a careful consideration of the present condition of the marriage and divorce laws of the territories and the District of Columbia, and of the responsibilty of Congress for it.

Resolved (4), That a committee of five be appointed to prepare a memorial embodying these views, and such additional considerations as they may deem proper, and present the same to the President and the two houses of Congress; and that the committee be instructed to lay the whole subject before the President in person, if practicable, with such statements as shall be deemed best. 1886, pp. 26, 37, 40.

The National Council of Congregational Churches again calls attention to the great and increasing number of divorces granted in the United States, which are now officially shown to have increased in the last twenty years more than twice as fast as the population, and also to those other evils that directly affect the family in its constitution, purity, and proper fruitfulness.

Resolved (1), That we invite the careful study of the forthcoming report to Congress of the commissioner of labor on marriage and divorce in the United States and Europe, and urge that this be done with two ends in view: first, that wise reformatory legislation may follow; and second, that the proper religious and social influences may be applied at the sources of the evils that threaten our family life.

Resolved (2), That a committee of five be appointed, which, in addition to the matters referred to in the foregoing resolution, shall be charged with the duty of studying the latent or imperfectly developed resources of the family and the home in the work of our churches, and report at the next triennial Council.

Resolved (3), That this committee is instructed to confer with the Provisional Committee, and, if deemed advisable, secure a proper place for the treatment of some of the subjects related to its report in the papers and discussion of the next Council. 1889, p. 47.

Resolved (1), That a committee of five be appointed by this Council whose duty it shall be:

1. To consider the dangers, needs, functions, and opportunities of the family in modern life, and what can be done to guard, develop, and strengthen it, especially noting the results of the various agencies, legal and social, to this end.

2. To co-operate with similar committees which may be appointed in other national bodies for the same objects; and

3. That this committee begin its work directly after its appointment; that it hold frequent meetings or consultations during the coming three years; that from time to time it make such reports and recommendations to the churches as may be deemed best; and that it report at the next triennial Council.

Resolved (2), That the Council advise that similar committees with similar duties be appointed in our state bodies, as now in Massachusetts, and also in our various local conferences and associations. 1892, pp. 34, 43. Report on, p. 259.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed which shall report, in the next National Council, what, in their judgment, is the correct Scripture doctrine of divorce. 1895, p. 41. Report on, p. 127.

The committee on the Scripture doctrine of divorce presented a report, which was accepted. A diverse report by a member of said committee was also presented and accepted. 1898, pp. 19, 280.

1. We view with serious misgiving the alarming increase in divorces and the consequent deplorable results in domestic and social life.

We regard the purity and unity of the family as corner stones of Christian homes and Christian civilization.

2. We do not question the propriety of solemnizing the marriage of a party who has been shown to be innocent in divorce proceedings, but we urge upon the ministers the duty of withholding sanction from those whose divorce has been secured on other than Scriptural grounds.

3. We ask that the Provisional Committee be requested to secure a place upon the program of the Twelfth Triennial Council for a paper giving a careful review of the situation, together with recommendations as to the best methods of remedy. 1901, p. 39.

Voted, That a committee of five, to be nominated by the Committee on Nominations in conference with the moderator, be appointed, to be known as the standing committee on the relation of the church to the present problems of family life; said committee to be charged with the studious inquiry into the material, industrial, educational, and legal conditions upon which the fulfillment of the function of the family depends, and the recommendation of such attitude and action of the churches thereto as their own interests and those of the family alike require in view of the facts. The committee is also authorized to cooperate with the representatives of other national denominational bodies to secure uniform action in regard to the marriage of divorced and other persons. 1904, p. 490.

Report of Committee on the Family. 1907, pp. 321, 339.

Voted, That this Council express its sympathy with the purpose and effort of the Inter-church Conference on marriage and divorce to defend the integrity and permanence of the divine institution of the family, and in due recognition of the comity which should exist between denominations we continue our representation in that conference by the appointment of three delegates.

We express our detestation of frivolous divorce, and we urge our ministers to make strict inquiry, in the case of strangers or of divorced persons applying to them for marriage, to discover whether, under the laws of morality and charity, they are worthy of entering again into that relation from which they may once have been severed. 1907, p. 403.

On recommendation of the Social Service Commission the following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, The breaking up of an alarmingly large number of American homes is indicated by the fact that America leads the Christian nations of the world in the ratio of divorce to marriage;

Be It Resolved, That the Council urges ministers so to work and teach that membership in the Christian Church shall be a guarantee of conscientiousness and intelligence about the duties of home life.

Be It further Resolved, That we urge upon our ministers increased care in the scrutiny of the records of divorced people seeking remarriage.

Be It further Resolved, That we urge an amendment to our Federal Constitution that will give Congress power to legislate on all questions of marriage and divorce. 1919, p. 41.

Address on The Responsibilities of the Church Respecting Marriages, by Hon. Simon E. Baldwin. 1913, pp. 88-96.

McKinley, President

Greetings to President McKinley. 1898, p. 26.

Message of sympathy to Mrs. McKinley. 1901, pp. 15, 19.

Members

(See Delegates.)

Membership, Church

TESTS OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AND THE INTERESTS OF THE CHURCHES

The committee "to report, in 1886, some system of economizing and utilizing our ministerial force, and also to investigate and report on the small accessions to the churches of our order on confession of faith during the past few years; and to make such recommendations as they may think proper to promote a larger increase in the future," deciding to present a separate report on each topic, made a report on the second, or practically on the question, "Will the interests of our churches be served by a relaxation of the ordinary tests of church membership?" which was accepted and was approved. 1886, pp. 20, 33. Report on, p. 286.

Address on: Burton W. Lockwood, D. D., 1907, p. 108.

NONRESIDENT CHURCH

That the Publishing Committee be requested to report to the next triennial Council, and recommend to the churches some uniform system of dealing with the following classes of persons found recorded as members of our churches:

1. Those who have been long regarded as nonresidents, and concerning whose whereabouts the church has no knowledge.

2. Those who have requested and received letters of dismission, and yet as to their connection with any other church the church has no knowledge.

3. Those who have been for a long time absent, and refuse to request letters of dismission. 1877, p. 51.

Publishing Committee's report on nonresident church members accepted, ordered printed, and commended to the churches. 1880, p. 27. Report on, p. 131.

Report of Committee (no resolutions) 1880, p. 131.

Resolved (8), That we recommend to the churches to look up their absent members; to urge on them the duty of taking letters to other churches; to notify some church, where the absent are living, of their church standing, with the request that the said church watch over them; and, in case of continued neglect or refusal to transfer their membership, to deal with them as Christian wisdom and love may dictate.

That the Secretary of the Council be authorized to devise some method of correspondence whereby absentee members of Congregational churches may be brought speedily into relationship with the churches into whose vicinity they may have moved. 1907, p. 427.

National Absentee Campaign. 1919, p. 173.

Report of Commission on Evangelism on "Absenteeism." 1921, pp. 78-81; 1923, p. 44; 1925, p. 138; 1927, p. 49.

Memorials

To Congress on Indian affairs in Oregon, p. 47; to Congress on arbitration among nations, 1871, p. 55.

Report of committee on treaty with Great Britain, p. 32; from American Bible Society, 1877, p. 25.

Report on memorials from New Jersey, Oregon, Washington Territory, Hudson River, and New York, on the place and power of the National Council. Committee appointed. 1880, p. 186.

Committee of 1880, failing to report, was discharged. 1883, p. 19.

Connecticut on relation of the societies to the churches, p. 19 (see p. 40); for memorial, p. 267; from the Norwegian Mission

Union, pp. 36, 271; from Minnesota, on missionary periodicals, p. 19; memorial, p. 367. 1889.

Michigan, on annual meetings of benevolent societies at same time and place, p. 13; from California, on debts of benevolent societies, p. 40. 1895.

Wisconsin, on temperance instruction in Sunday Schools, p. 35; from American Bible Society, p. 28; from South Dakota, referred to Committee on Comity, etc., 1898, p. 24.

California, Illinois, Minnesota, and Vermont, on federation, p. 26; from Massachusetts, on Year-Book, pp. 18, 33; from Rev. Josiah Strong, on polygamy, p. 24. 1901.

Iowa and Massachusetts, on joint meetings of National Council and benevolent societies, p. 534; report on, p. 446; from Massachusetts, on relations of Congregational Home Missionary Society and its state auxiliaries, no action, p. 532; on world's peace, p. 534; report on, p. 480. 1904.

Massachusetts on Collecting statistics of the Brotherhood, also on Statistics of the Missionary Societies. 1910, p. 326.

Maine, on a common fiscal year for all Societies; also the bringing of the benevolent societies under one management; that all societies should share in the apportionment, and that the Council appoint a committee looking to the federating of all the societies.

Ohio, on the creation of a pension fund for ministers. 1910, p. 327.

Missouri, on religious education, 1910, p. 328.

Kansas, on Religious Education. 1910, p. 329.

Iowa, on a uniform fiscal year for the societies. 1910, p. 330.

Illinois, on Religious Education. 1910, p. 330; also on Church Architecture. 1910, pp. 331-333.

The Congregational Brotherhood on listing Men's organizations in the Year-Book, 1910, p. 333.

Illinois regarding ministerial standing by associations. 1915, p. 372. Also regarding the combination of denominational periodicals. 1915, p. 374.

Nebraska, regarding young people's work. 1917, pp. 31-55.
Michigan, on Church Union, 1917, p. 35.

The Ministers' Meeting of Chicago and from the Rockford, Illinois Association, on the Burial of the Dead. 1919, p. 50.

The Cumberland Plateau Association of Tennessee, on separate organizations for white and colored churches. 1910, p. 374.

The Essex North Conference of Massachusetts, on Civic Committees in the churches. 1910, p. 396.

Maine, on Increased Council dues. 1913, p. 386.

The Old South Church of Boston to the Suffolk West Association on Missionary Apportionments. 1921, p. 387.

Massachusetts on Peace Instruction. 1923, pp. 14, 193.

Cleveland Association of Ohio on Unity. 1923, p. 193.

The Los Angeles Association regarding Reversionary Deeds. 1923, p. 193.

Ohio Conference regarding Club Rates for Periodicals. 1923, p. 193.

The Rural Life Discussional of Concord, N. H., on A Country Life Commission. 1923, p. 193.

Wisconsin on the Foundation for Education. 1923, p. 193.

California, Northern, on Union with the Universalists. 1925, p. 27.

Men's Work

(See also Laymen and Commissions.)

Resolutions presented by Rev. Frank Dyer, of Washington, were adopted as follows:

Resolved, That the National Council rejoices in the great company of young men identified with and active in our churches throughout the nation and in the promise of men showing leadership.

Resolved, That the Council also recognizes the urgent need in this post-war period of new effort on the part of all our churches, associations, conferences and national organizations, to call young men to Christian life and Christian service and a fuller participation in the spiritual obligations which belong to us as a people.

Resolved, That a commission of fifteen on Men's Work be appointed, with power to add to their number, a majority of whom shall have served in our army. 1919, p. 48.

Voted, To reconsider the motion in regard to the Commission on Men's Work and to refer the report of the Commission, with the motion, to the Commission on Missions with power. (See p. 389). 1921, p. 394.

Reports of the Commission and Education Society. 1925, pp. 162, 163; also p. 223.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMISSION ON MEN'S WORK

1. That the Commission be authorized to help the men's societies in the churches, already organized, as to program, and to make suggestion for the better relating of the members of these societies to the activities of the church; and for the deepening of spiritual life.

2. That a Men's Work Committee be organized in each church. This may be done at the annual meeting or at any other proper occasion. The Men's Work Committee should be representative of all the interests of the church; it might include members of the trustees, deacons, church school, young people, young married men, students. The object of the Men's Work Committee in each church would be to relate the men to the accredited enterprises and projects of the churches as well as to the activities and worship of the individual church.

3. That each State Conference appoint a standing Committee on Men's Work; this Commission to be authorized to experiment in regard to training institutes and occasional conferences for the development of the spiritual life of men, and for the better information of the men of the church as to its accredited projects and enterprises.

4. That a systematic effort be made, throughout the Congregational associations, and the state conferences, to elect to the National Council a larger number of strong laymen, and that where substitutions occur in the delegate list insistence be made upon the attendance of laymen. It is recommended that men be urged as delegates and associate members to set apart the time necessary for attendance upon the National Council as an important duty or privilege.

5. That there be a general survey and re-emphasis of Men's Work at the state and district association meetings, and in the individual churches, during the next year, with a definite purpose of developing plans for utilizing the power of men in organization and for sacrifice and for the purpose of making the work of men more general and effective for Christ.

6. We recommend that the Constitution and By-Laws of the Council be so amended as to require that not more than one-half of the delegates may be chosen from the clergy.

The report was accepted and the recommendations adopted. 1927, pp. 230, 231.

The Commission on Men's Work has reported, recommending that this temporary commission be discontinued and its work distributed through agencies already existing. The Executive Committee concurs in this recommendation and presents it to the National Council for action. 1929, p. 13.

The following recommendations were adopted:

1. That an attempt to build up a separate national brotherhood of men in the Congregational Churches of the country be not recommended.

2. That the men's interests of our denomination in national service be promoted primarily by the following agencies:

   (1) By the Education Society through adult Bible Classes and through the work of the Social Service Commission.

   (2) By the Commission on Missions and all the missionary agencies, including the Laymen's Advisory Committee, in a special and continuous effort to increase the interest and participation of men in the great missionary work for which we are responsible.

   (3) By the Commission on Evangelism and the Devotional Life in its plans to meet the special needs of men.

   (4) By the Commission on International Relations which covers a field of very great interest to men.

3. That the above societies and commissions, with adequate lay representation, be asked to give special attention to the cultivation of the younger men of the churches.

4. That State Conferences and Associations be urged to do all in their power to encourage the attendance of lay delegates at the State and District Conferences, and at the meetings of the National Council.

5. That the executive committee of the National Council be requested to follow up effectively these recommendations and report to the National Council from time to time the progress which is being made. For this purpose the Executive Committee is authorized to appoint a permanent subcommittee of laymen in place of the temporary Men's Work Commission. 1929, pp. 74, 75.

Mileage Fund

(See also Finances.)

The following was voted on recommendation of the Executive Committee:

That the Executive Committee be directed to inquire as to the possibility of meeting, in part, the expenses of delegates to the National Council and to report at the next Council meeting. 1915, p. 29.

Report on. 1917, p. 102.

On recommendation of the Executive Committee it was voted to defer action with reference to providing the expenses of delegates. 1917, p. 52.

On recommendation of the Executive Committee the following was voted:

3. That the churches be asked to contribute a further sum for the purpose of paying the traveling expenses of delegates to the National Council.

4. That all delegates elected by conferences and associations in states which have paid their full per capita for each year of the biennium be entitled to share in the travel fund thus created.

5. That in any state which has not paid its entire per capita, participation in the fund shall be limited to delegates from associations which have paid in full.

6. That for the next Council the amount available for this purpose be apportioned by the Executive Committee upon a sliding scale which shall, as nearly as possible, make the net railway cost the same to all delegates whether near or distant, announcement of the fund available and the plan of its distribution to be made well in advance of the meeting.

7. That at the next meeting of the Council the stipulation concerning participation in the travel fund shall be considered as met by any state which has made or guaranteed full payment on the basis fixed for the year 1921.

8. That the Executive Committee be instructed to submit to the next Council on the basis of the experience of the initial years a plan for the distribution of the sum available for the ensuing biennium. 1919, p. 19.

The Executive Committee reported that on the basis of a careful estimate of the sum required for the railway fare of delegates to the National Council under existing conditions, it had fixed the per capita contribution to be asked for this purpose at one cent for each year of the coming biennium. 1919, p. 47.

Report on the outworking of the plans for the meeting of 1921. 1921, pp. 21, 22.

Voted, That the method of paying the expenses of delegates to the Council be determined by the Executive Committee. 1921, p. 363.

In view of the lack of clear understanding in advance upon the matter of mileage allowance at the present meeting the Business Committee made two recommendations:

First, that for this meeting mileage be allowed to substitute delegates upon recommendation by their respective state delegations or superintendents. On motion adopted.

Second, That the future policy of the Council in the matter of mileage payments be referred to the Executive Committee with power to act for the next meeting only and to report recommendations at next meeting. On motion adopted. 1923, p. 228.

In 1927 the following was incorporated in the By-Laws:

Distribution of mileage shall be made among the delegates on the basis of a full delegation from each state provided that no delegate shall receive more than one delegate's share. Substitutes from within the state shall be entitled to share in the pro rata mileage when requested by the state delegation. 1925, p. 283.

In 1927 the above was altered by substituting the following in the Standing Rules:

The Travel Fund. Delegates from conferences and Associations which pay their full per capita for the support of the National Council and its mileage fund are entitled to share in the travel fund thus created. In any state which does not pay its entire per capita, participation in the fund shall be limited to delegates from Associations which have paid in full.

The mileage fund is distributed among all participating delegates on the basis of the number of miles traveled.

All persons regularly seated as delegates and serving for the major portion of the meeting of the Council shall be entitled to share in the mileage. 1927, p. 245.

On recommendation of the Executive Committee, the following was voted:

That in computing the distances traveled, for the distribution of the mileage fund, such distance shall not include travel on free transportation furnished by the railroads. 1929, p. 200.

Ministerial Boards

This is an informal title embracing the two corporations; that is, the Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief and the Annuity Fund for Congregational Ministers, in accordance with the following report:

It was reported that the Trustees of the Annuity Fund for Congregational Ministers and the Directors of the Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief acting in accordance with the authority given them at the last meeting of the National Council had adopted the informal title of ''The Ministerial Boards'' with the approval of the Corporation for the National Council and the Commission on Missions, it being understood that the Corporations of the Annuity Fund and the Board of Relief remain as hitherto. 1923, p. 212.

(See also Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief, and Annuity Fund for Congregational Ministers.)

Ministerial Relief

(See Trustees and Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief.)

Overture from Ohio. Report of committee; recommendations adopted:

1. That each state body have an organization of its own to solicit funds from churches and individuals within its bounds to be applied for this purpose.

2. That a committee of five be appointed by this Council to issue a circular calling the attention of the churches of our order throughout the country to this important subject, and urging upon them the claims of these godly, self-sacrificing men and women, who have done such efficient work in the vineyard of the Lord; to communicate with state organizations formed for this object; to seek to secure similar organizations in states where none now exist; to stimulate in all practical ways the ministration of the needed relief; and to report their doings, with recommendations, at the next triennial Council. 1877, pp. 18, 34.

First. Immediate steps toward organizing and incorporating ministerial relief boards in each state, where such boards are not already organized, such boards to be under the control of the state conference or association.

Second. The plan of personal appeal by circular annually to each local church in the state and personal effort to secure funds and legacies from private individuals.

Third. The investment of funds, if they are invested in such manner as that they can be used, if need be, without waiting for the accumulation of a stated amount.

Fourth. The setting of the cause in such a light before the people as that the givers shall not feel that they are bestowing a charity, or the receivers shall be embarrassed in the aid received.

Fifth. Removal of such limitations as to the disbursements of funds as necessitate ministerial labor in a certain state before aid can be secured from that state organization, though the applicant be a resident of said state. 1880, pp. 25, 117.

Committee on, reported. Report referred to Business Committee. Business Committee recommended it be referred to

Publishing Committee; commended to the churches. 1880, pp. 20, 25, 111-118.

Memorials from General Association of Illinois and the Alumni Association of Chicago Theological Seminary referred to a committee, to report in 1886. 1883, p. 33.

Whereas, Mr. Albert Curtis offers to this Council a valuable house and lot in Worcester, Massachusetts,

Resolved, That the thanks of the Council are hereby expressed to that gentleman for his generous proposition to aid in the establishment of a home for disabled ministers and their wives and widows. 1886, p. 97.

KNOWLES LEGACY

Resolved (1), That the trustees of the National Council be instructed to convey to the administrators of the estate of Mrs. Helen C. Knowles the expression of the thanks of the Council for the proposed gift, and the entire readiness of the Council to receive and execute the trust; and that said trustees be directed to consider the desirableness of accepting the gift proposed by Albert Curtis, and be authorized to accept the same in behalf of the Council, if said trustees see fit.

Resolved (2), That the treasurer of the trustees of the Council be authorized to receive the Knowles legacy, and to hold it subject to the orders of the Council, as hereinafter given; also to receive any other funds intrusted for any department of ministerial relief; and that he be required to give bonds for the proper administration of the trust in a sum to be fixed by said trustees. 1886, pp. 21, 33, 97.

COMMITTEE ON RELIEF APPOINTED

Resolved (3), That a committee of ten, five of whom, at least, shall be laymen, be appointed as a standing committee of the Council on relief for disabled ministers and the widows and orphans of deceased ministers. The duty of this committee shall be to promote, as far as possible, the objects indicated in its name, by keeping the subject before the churches, aiding, as far as possible, local and state societies having the same object, and securing gifts for this object. Funds contributed for this purpose to the Council shall be held by the treasurer of the trustees of the Council subject to the orders of this committee. This committee shall report at each triennial meeting of the Council, and at its triennial reappointment not more than eight members who have served the preceding term shall be reappointed. They shall have power to fill vacancies. The trustees shall have power to determine how the funds intrusted to them shall be appropriated, except that, unless otherwise determined by the terms of the specific gift, funds put into their hands shall be appropriated only to ministers in regular Congregational standing, and to the families of ministers who were in such standing at the time of their decease. 1886, pp. 29, 33, 45, 322.

"That the Council of 1889, in the matter of ministerial relief, reaffirm the action of the Council of 1886 on page 46 of Minutes of said Council. It is our earnest wish that all our churches and their individual members may be interested in this work of ministerial relief; that permanent funds may be provided and ample provision made, so that our brethren in all the land may give themselves wholly to the work of evangelization, exempt from cares and anxieties as to material support for themselves, if overtaken by sickness or when advanced in years, or for their families, if they should be removed by death."

It was *voted,* That the action of the trustees of the National Council, interpreting their duties, as defined in Resolution 3, page 46, of the Minutes of the National Council of 1886, to require the turning over of the income of the ministerial relief fund to the committee of that name, to be distributed by them, be approved as the intent and will of the Council in the creation of the Ministerial Relief Committee. 1889, pp. 3, 22, 116.

Resolved (1), That we emphasize, as one of the most pressing and sacred duties now before our churches, the long delayed work of providing adequately for the relief of aged or disabled Congregational ministers and of the destitute widows and orphan children of ministers.

Resolved (2), That we favor the establishment in every state of an efficient relief organization or committee, to be maintained by a moderate annual collection from each church.

Resolved (3), That we particularly and urgently request every pastor and church to arrange, at the earliest practicable date, for a full and forcible presentation of this subject, to the end that information may be diffused, that interest may be awakened, and that each congregation may have the opportunity of making one splendid contribution for the increase of the national ministerial relief fund.

Resolved (4), That we encourage the committee, to be appointed for the ensuing three years, to use such active measures as may seem to them wise and necessary for the furtherance of these ends, pledging to them practical co-operation and substantial assistance.

It was *voted,* That the committee be thanked for their efficient service, and that they be continued, with such changes as may be needful. 1892, p. 17.

Resolved, That we heartily approve the purposes and methods of our Ministerial Relief Committee; that we exhort the committee, as it may be reconstituted here, to press on for yet larger means and ministrations, and that we respectfully entreat all Congregational churches that, without neglecting a reasonable annual offering for the current needs of the societies of their respective states, they arrange for a favorable presentation of, and a generous contribution or its equivalent to, the permanent ministerial relief fund of the National Council for the enlargement of its broad, necessary, and beneficent ministry. 1895, p. 15.

That the work of raising the needed permanent fund be prosecuted as vigorously as possible, so that, at as early a day as may seem wise, the call upon the churches for this object shall cease. 1898, pp. 16, 33.

Record of approval of the amendment of the Charter under which the trustees of the National Council became the Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief. 1907, p. 408.

In 1910 an address was given by Mr. Lucien C. Warner of New York on ''Larger Things for Ministerial Relief.'' 1910, p. 397.

The Commission of Nineteen made the following report, which was adopted:

We thoroughly endorse the work of the Board of Ministerial Relief and feel that it ought to have the heartiest support of all the churches and the most cordial co-operation of all existing state relief societies. We hope the day is not far distant when the present fund of $275,000 will reach the ultimate goal of a million, when every aged and dependent minister can be tenderly and adequately cared for. 1913, p. 403.

Ministers

(See also Pastoral Relations, and Salaries.)

I. STANDING

That it is inexpedient and improper that pastors of Congregational churches should assume or retain membership in other denominations. 1865, p. 360.

Resolved, That all ministers in our denomination ought to be in orderly connection with some ministerial or ecclesiastical organization which shall be able to certify to their regular standing in the ministry.

Resolved, That churches be urged not to employ as preachers unsettled ministers without such evidence of their good standing in the ministry. 1871, p. 60.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to inquire into the facts and the various usages of our denomination respecting ministerial responsibility and standing, and report to the next triennial Council with such recommendations as they may deem advisable.

Resolved, That meanwhile we earnestly recommend to the churches before employing any minister the careful ascertainment of the fact of his regular standing in some recognized ecclesiastical connection. 1877, p. 24.

It is also recommended that associations and conferences receive ministers to membership only upon proper and complete written credentials; and when such ministers apply as are members of any other similar body full transfer papers be in all cases required. 1877, p. 35.

The resolutions of the report of the majority were taken up singly, and the first resolution was amended by substituting for it the three following resolutions, which were adopted, viz:—

Resolved (1), That a *pro re nata* council is the origin of ministerial standing in our fellowship, and the ultimate resort in all cases of question.

Resolved (2), That the continued certification of ministerial standing may well be left to the ministerial associations or the organizations of churches.

Resolved (3), That the body of churches in any locality have the inalienable right of extending ministerial fellowship to, or withholding fellowship from, any person within their bounds, no matter what his relation may be in church membership or ecclesiastical affiliations, the proceedings to be commenced by any church, and to be conducted with due regard to equity.

It was *voted,* That said report, including the remaining resolutions, be printed and commended to the careful consideration of the churches. 1880, pp. 16, 17. Report on, pp. 77-98.

Memorial from Berkshire North Association of Massachusetts, relating to the pastorate and ministerial standing, read, referred to a committee to report in 1886. 1883, p. 18. Report on, p. 161.

Resolved (1), That standing in the Congregational ministry is acquired by the fulfillment of these three conditions, namely: (1) membership in a Congregational church; (2) ordination to the Christian ministry; and (3) reception as an ordained minister into the fellowship of the Congregational churches in accordance with the usage of the state or territorial organization of churches in which the applicant may reside; and such standing is to be continued in accordance with these usages, it being understood that a *pro re nata* council is the resort in all cases in question.

Resolved (2), That all Congregational ministers in good standing in their respective states, who have been installed by council, or who have been regularly called to the pastorate by the specific vote of some church, have formally accepted such position, and have been recognized as such by some definite act of the church, should be enrolled as pastors; and we advise that all our denominational statistics, and direct that, so far as possible, our Year-Book, conform to this principle.

Resolved (3), That this National Council commends to the churches, in accordance with our ancient usage, the importance of properly called ecclesiastical councils, ordinarily selected from the vicinage, and especially the great importance of the installation of ministers to the pastorate by councils, when it is practicable, as conducive to the purity of the ministry and the prosperity of the churches.

Resolved (4), That the state organizations and local organizations of churches be recommended to consider such modification of their constitution as will enable them to become responsible for the ministerial standing of ministers within their bounds, in harmony with the principle that the churches of any locality decide upon their own fellowship.

Resolved (5), That the Year-Book designate pastors who have been installed or recognized by Council, called to examine the pastor-elect and assist in inducting him into office, by the letters P. C., and pastors otherwise inducted by the letter P.; it being understood that these changes shall be first made in the Year-Book for 1888. 1886, pp. 22, 24, 25, 43. Report on, p. 312.

Resolved (1), That we recommend that churches, especially new churches, desiring Congregational fellowship seek connection with some body of Congregational churches; that, to guard against imposition, churches desiring ministerial supplies, or pastors, insist upon good credentials in all cases; that ministers desiring to be recognized as Congregational ministers should unite with a Congregational church and seek connection with some body of Congregational ministers or churches; and that Councils are advised not to recognize as pastors those who are not so connected; that ministers removing to the bounds of another conference, association, or state, should connect themselves by letter promptly with the local body to whose bounds they have removed; that ministers taking letters to other bodies should present them without needless delay; and that, in our judgment, it is not orderly for any minister to be a member of two co-ordinate bodies at the same time. 1892, p. 16.

It was *resolved,* That, in the judgment of this Council, whenever action by a council or any other ecclesiastical body impairs the standing of a minister, it is very desirable that the action, with the general facts in the case, should be communicated by the clerk or scribe of that body to the secretary of this Council, to be by him preserved for the information of the churches. 1895, p. 39.

Voted, That to the resolutions on ministerial standing adopted in 1886, the following resolution be added:

Resolved (3), That, in the transfer of ministerial membership from one association, conference, or other ecclesiastical body, in the judgment of the Council, the gaining of new membership is ecclesiastically impossible until the applicant shall have been fully released from his previous ecclesiastical membership. 1898, p. 21.

The following recommendations were adopted:

"*Whereas,* The National Council has affirmed that the ministerial standing of an ordained man is completed and constituted only by membership in a District Association, or State Conference, and is sustained by the maintenance of such membership.

It is therefore voted, That the loss of such membership for good and sufficient cause is the loss of ministerial standing; that no further action, such as technical deposition, is required for terminating a man's ministerial character, and that one who has thus lost ministerial standing and character should no longer be recognized as a minister or employed by our churches, and his name shall not appear in the Year-Book."

As germane to the foregoing and as an essential corollary your Committee also recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

> "That a minister who has been suspended from membership in a District Association, or State Conference, should not be permitted to exercise the functions of the ministry during the period of his suspension." 1915, pp. 38, 39.

Report of Committee on Standards for the Ministry. 1929, pp. 87-92.

The following was adopted:

That State Conferences and District Associations be advised to grant affiliated membership rather than full membership to ministers of other denominations who have reason to maintain double relationship. 1929, p. 203.

That to the provisions in the resolution of the National Council in 1886, the first of which reads "Resolved: That standing in the Congregational ministry is acquired by the fulfillment of these three conditions, namely, (1) membership in a Congregational church," there be added the words "or in any evangelical church not associated with another denomination," the remainder of the resolution to be unchanged. 1929, p. 209.

See Standing Rule No. 7 in By-laws. 1929, p. 162.

II. ORDINATION

Resolved (3), That ecclesiastical councils called for the ordination of ministers, or for the installation of pastors, ought to examine thoroughly and independently the questions which are submitted to them, so as to be able to guard the rights of the churches and congregations from whatever dangers; and especially to protect them from those who are unfit to be recognized as public religious teachers, either from the lack of piety or knowledge, or from unsoundness in doctrines. The responsibility is so grave that the council ought never to permit itself to be overborne by the opinions or wishes of persons outside.

Resolved (4), That councils called to advise concerning the dismission of pastors ought to protect the interests committed to them by exercising their right to investigate thoroughly the matters laid before them, and give their independent judgment, without fear or favor of any.

Resolved (5), That the paper be submitted to a committee of seven persons, three of whom shall be laymen, which committee shall report at the next triennial session of the Council. 1877, p. 49.

Whereas, Recognizing the change which has come in our conception of the ministry since the day in which a man ordained to the pastorate of a given church had standing only as such pastor, and the fact that a minister once ordained has now a relation to the entire denomination and the church at large such as the fathers neither contemplated nor could anticipate;

And recognizing further, that only a minority of our ministers are installed by council, but that all ministers in good standing must assume relations with a local association, conference, or convention, this Council reminds the churches and associations of our order that in their keeping now, more largely than of old, is the good name of our ministry and the place of our churches. In view of these facts:

Resolved, That this Council urges the churches in selecting the membership of ordaining councils to make those councils truly representative of our fellowship, and that they lay hands suddenly on no man, but guard increasingly the honor of our ministry and the purity of the church of Christ.

Resolved, That councils be advised to exercise greater care in ordaining men; that in general a man be not ordained who has not previously been licensed; and that careful inquiry be made as to the fitness of men who have not been long among us, or who do not present evidence of thorough training for the work of the ministry, and of knowledge of the polity of our churches and the work of our denominational agencies.

Resolved, That associations be urged to greater care in the granting of licenses, and that men to whom licenses are granted be first thoroughly examined; that theological seminaries be requested to discontinue what are known as seminary licenses, or if the same continue to be issued they are not to be used as a substitute for regular licenses, and that of this fact the students be informed; and that the entrance to our ministry, both as regards licenses and ordination, be attended with more of dignity and solemnity than in some cases hitherto.

Resolved, That associations be advised to carefully inquire as to the representative character of councils ordaining ministers before admitting to ministerial standing; and that, wherever practicable, all of the churches of the local body which is expected to assume responsibility for the standing of the ministry be invited in council, to the intent that the ordaining power be lodged with a body essentially the same as that responsible for ministerial standing. 1904, p. 556.

Voted, That this Council recommends to ordaining councils and local associations a policy which declines to ordain to our ministry men without regular theological training before the successful completion of three years of field study under the auspices of a State Conference Committee regularly appointed for that purpose, or in correspondence courses with a theological seminary of recognized standing. 1915, p. 41.

Report of Committee on Standards for Ordination. 1929, pp. 87-92. (Look at full minutes.)

III. TRAINING

1. That, of candidates for the Congregational ministry, all who can should take full academic training and a complete course in a theological seminary.

2. That, while recognizing the call of God to exceptional men of limited education to preach the gospel, our theological seminaries, Education Society, and churches should use increased care to maintain the intellectual and educational standard of the Christian ministry. We deem the present an appropriate time

for councils, churches, conferences, and associations to make steadfast effort to elevate, and on no account to lessen, requirements for entrance upon the pastoral office.

3. That seminary curricula, while aiming at the highest intellectual and scholarly attainment, should for all students give largely increased inclusion to the practical and tactual in training.

4. That utmost care should be exercised, not only in the admission of students to seminary courses, but also in continuing them after admission, to the end of discouraging the incapable and unsuitable and retaining only the fit.

5. That in those exceptional cases where councils or local organizations may think it wise to give recognition to men who are available for the ministry, but who are not able to enter a seminary, full ministerial standing should be withheld until the applicant shall have taken a course in theological and pastoral study.

7. That our churches should exercise much greater care in admitting to their pulpits, whether for purposes of candidacy or supply, men whose credentials as to character and standing have not been thoroughly examined and approved.

8. That from candidates for approbation before associations and conferences, and from men of other denominations seeking admission to our body, evidence should be required of adequate training and experience, and of a reasonable familiarity with our polity; and that in lack of these only a limited commendation be granted, pending the prosecution of further study.

10. That ministers and churches should exercise greatest diligence in seeking to recruit the ranks of the ministry from young men of promise in their parishes, and that officers of the Education Society, boards of trust, committees of recommendation, and seminary faculties should hold to close examination and continued strict account all who make application for, and all who are receiving, educational aid.

11. That a copy of these recommendations and of the accompanying resolution on ministerial standing shall be sent to each minister, church, and theological seminary in the denomination. (Numbers 6 and 9 were laid on the table.) 1898, pp. 22, 23.

It was *voted,* That the Committee on Polity be authorized to prepare a minimum required course of study for men who desire to secure ordination to the gospel ministry, to be proposed to the local and state bodies for their discussion and use, and that the report be made to the next National Council for further discussion. 1904, p. 557.

We recommend that this Council appoint a body of twelve men, to be called the National Council's Commission on Ministerial Education; to be composed of five pastors, four laymen, and three theological seminary professors, who may be nominated by "The Conference of Congregational Schools of Theology;" the purpose and scope of the commission to be as follows:

To consider and promote the best interests of Congregational ministerial education.

(a) To secure the presentation of the ministry as a calling to choice young men in our homes, churches, and colleges; and to do whatever may be done, either apart from or in co-operation with any existing agencies and efforts, for maintaining full numbers in our Congregational ministry.

(b) To make, in co-operation with our Congregational theological seminaries adequate and permanent provision for the further equipment of such Congregational ministers and ministerial candidates throughout the country as lack college or seminary instruction, or enter our fellowship from other denominations; in particular, to do this by means of correspondence courses conducted under the supervision of the commission, and to promote circulating libraries, or loan and exchange of books among such ministers.

(c) To bring about summer schools or institutes of theology year by year in different sections of the country; and in other practicable ways to provide for the mental and spiritual sustenance of our Congregational ministers.

(d) To co-operate with all our theological seminaries so as to promote their welfare in all possible ways, and enable them to render their fittest and fullest ministry to the Church and to the Kingdom.

(e) To present to our churches the value of years of study and experience for the pastor's most effective work, the increase and honor of the ministry and the maintenance of its numbers.

We recommend that the commission be authorized, in the exercise of large discretion, to initiate and prosecute this movement in such ways as they may deem best. 1907, p. 351.

The above recommendations were adopted.

2. That the Council reaffirm the recommendations adopted at the Cleveland meeting and referred to the Commission. (Minutes, pp. 351, 425.) From Report of Committee on Ministerial Education. 1910, p. 275.

That the Council urge the Congregational Education Society to co-operate with the commission in all possible ways, and in particular to supply the funds required for the expert initiation and development of the work. 1910, p. 408.

Addresses on the Ministry. 1907, p. 59; 1907, p. 67; 1913, p. 69.

Be it resolved, that between the National Council and the theological seminaries enrolled in our Year-Book there should be a more intimate relationship, a better understanding and a more fruitful co-operation.

Be it further resolved, to this end (a) that each of these theological seminaries be urged to send a representative to the Council, (b) that each of them, whose organization makes it possible, be requested to have on its Board of Trustees one member elected on the nomination of the National Council, (c) that at each biennial session of the National Council a portion of time be set apart for the presentation of the work and problems of these theological seminaries, and (d) that the Tercentenary Commission be asked to secure the co-operation of these thelogical seminaries in attaining that goal of the Tercentenary Campaign which concerns candidates for the ministry and missionary work. 1917, p. 64.

That the Education Society provide a uniform course of study for such ministerial candidates as have been unable to avail themselves of the advantages of collegiate and seminary training, the course to cover a period of three years, and that it be tendered to the State Conference and through them to the Local Associations as a suggestive course. 1919, p. 43.

IV. RECRUITING

1. That it is the imperative duty of ministers and churches and individual Christians to promote and encourage in every practical way the education of worthy young men for the Christian ministry.

2. That the American Education Society and kindred societies ought to receive the sympathy and generous liberality of the churches, expressed by regular stated contributions to their funds.

3. That while we are, as our fathers were before us, the firm friends and supporters of our noble public school system, we cannot dispense with a system of academies, colleges, and theological seminaries, controlled and instructed by men of devoted and active Christian faith, judiciously planted over all our territory, and furnished with such ample resources as will secure to them that commanding position among the institutions of learn-

ing of our country which academies and colleges founded and nurtured by men of Congregational faith and order have occupied from the very beginning of our history as a people.

4. That it is incumbent on ministers to inculcate on Christian parents, and especially on Christian mothers, the duty and the precious privilege of consecrating their children from their infancy to the service of the Master and, if the will of God shall be so indicated, to the ministry and to missionary work in the home and foreign fields.

5. That while we recognize the duty of churches and the right of ministers to receive a support which will free them from all hindrance in their work arising from pecuniary straitness or embarrassment, we ought to seek and expect such a baptism of the Holy Ghost as will make our young men willing and eager to enter the ministry and to undertake the cultivation of the harvest fields in the Lord's vineyard in the face of whatever difficulties, privations, and discouragements, since without such a gift of the Holy Ghost success in the great work to which the providence of God is loudly calling us is impossible. 1871, pp. 59, 60.

Resolved (1) That the time has come for a definite, organized effort representing the whole body of our churches to raise up a gospel ministry equal to the emergency which is upon us and immediately before us.

Resolved (2), That such organized effort, as in other matters of a similar nature, involves the appointment of a man to do the work, whose duty shall be to visit churches with appeals for men, to enlist the active interest of pastors, to visit schools, academies, and colleges, conventions of Sunday School workers and Endeavor Societies, and all other suitable places, to present the claims of Christ upon young men to preach the gospel, and to encourage and unify and enlarge the efforts of all persons or institutions that now do or hereafter may endeavor to send forth laborers into the harvest.

Resolved (3), That a committee of five be appointed to consider this matter, and that this committee be authorized, in the exercise of a large discretion, to initiate this movement in such a way as they may deem best.

Resolved (4), That we suggest to this committee to consider the relations of the American College and Education Society to this undertaking, and, if they think it wise, to propose to the directors of that society to assume the responsibility of it.

Resolved (5), That this committee report at the next triennial session of the Council. 1889, pp. 42, 204.

Report on 1892, pp. 109, 142.

Resolved, That a committee of five, consisting of Rev. Washington Gladden, Rev. Amory H. Bradford, Rev. Nehemiah Boynton, Rev. Charles E. Jefferson, and Rev. Charles S. Mills, be appointed to co-operate with the theological seminaries of the denomination in an earnest endeavor definitely to increase the number of strong and thoroughly trained men from our own churches entering the Christian ministry. 1904, p. 556.

In line with the suggestions of Moderator MacMillan's address, approval was voted to the effort to secure more and better students for the ministry, headed by the International Committee of The Young Men's Christian Association, and the matter was referred to the Council Commission on Ministerial Education, with power. 1910, p. 392.

That the Council recommends that pastors present the challenge of the Christian ministry to their churches on the Sunday preceding the Day of Prayer for Colleges, and that the officers of the Education Society be charged to bring this to the attention of the ministers.

That in view of the already effective service of some women ministers in our own as well as in other denominations, a committee be appointed to secure information; first, as to the number of women now in the ministry, their standing and efficiency; and second, as to the need of women ministers. And that, in view of the increasing use of lay preaching by our English brethren, this matter of lay preaching be committed to this same committee; and that to this committee be referred all matters dealing with church assistants and germane subjects; this committee to report at the next Council. 1919, pp. 25, 26.

Resolved, That a special commission be appointed which shall be known as the Commission on Recruiting for the Ministry. It shall consist of ten members of whom the Chairman and three other members shall be members of the Commission on Missions. This Commission shall have full authority to select and appoint a Director whose duty it shall be to survey the whole subject of recruiting for the ministry, to study the best methods used by other churches, and to initiate at once and to carry on a persistent and thorough and far-reaching plan of recruiting. The Commission shall provide for his salary, his office and traveling expenses and for such personal assistance as he shall find necessary from time to time.

Resolved, That this Commission shall be authorized to expend a sum not to exceed $15,000 per annum, and further than it be referred to the Commission, in conference with the Commission on the Status of the Ministry, to provide for the above annual expenditures for the two years, 1922, 1923.

Resolved, That this Commission shall carefully relate its work in a co-operative manner with those departments of the Education Society, the American Board, and other organizations which are concerned with the subject of the supply of the ministry.

Resolved, That this Commission shall report regularly to the Commission on Missions. 1921, p. 372.

Resolved, That the National Council recommends to all the churches the observance of a Vocation Day, on which the need for leaders in religious work shall be placed before Congregational young people and their parents, and that the last Sunday in February be designated for this purpose. 1921, p. 377.

Findings concerning recruiting and the status of the ministry. 1923, pp. 210, 211.

Plans of procedure for the Commission on Recruiting. 1927, p. 228.

Analysis of situation in report of Commission on Recruiting. 1929, pp. 55-61.

Committee to be continued. 1929, p. 92.

Recommendations laid upon the table; also

Voted, The Business Committee recommends that the Commission on Recruiting be continued for further study of the subject and that it include in its survey of this matter of recruiting any promotional work now carried on by Congregational or other Theological Seminaries among Congregational students in our colleges. 1929, p. 225.

V. PASTORAL RELATIONS

The Committee on Pastorless Churches made a report, which was accepted and ordered to be printed; and the committee were thanked for their thorough work. Report on, pp. 119-130. 1880, p. 25.

Whereas, The report of our secretary shows a large number of churches without ministers and of ministers without charge, and

Whereas, The efficiency of our churches and ministers is seriously impaired by frequent changes in the pastorate:

Resolved, That this Council choose a committee of seven, to be known as the Committee on Pastoral Relation, to consider these conditions, investigate their cause, and suggest a remedy.

And further, That this committee be requested, if possible, to devise some scheme, not inconsistent with our cherished Congregational principles, for a felicitous introduction of candidates to churches, and for promoting stability in the pastoral relation, the committee to report to the Council at its next session. 1904, p. 561. (See p. 266.)

(See also *Congregational Board of Pastoral Supply.*)

Minutes

Printed minutes of the National Council ordinarily contain record of all actions, reports of officers, committees, and commissions, names of delegates, the program, and usually certain of the addresses. These are on file in the office of the National Council, in many of the State Conference offices, in libraries connected with the Congregational churches, and in the studies of many of the ministers.

Rev. William Barrows, D. D., of Massachusetts, secretary of the Congregational Publishing Society, having offered in behalf of that society to print and distribute the Minutes of this Council without expense to the Council, it was

Voted, That the offer be accepted, and that the Minutes be so printed under the direction of the secretary, registrar, and auditor of the Council; and that all former action made unnecessary by this vote be rescinded, and that the record be conformed to this vote. 1871, p. 57.

Mission Sunday Schools

Whereas, There have been found to be in twenty-five states and territories 950 Sunday Schools known as Congregational, with 45,000 members, in the care of persons employed by Congregationalists in missionary work, but which are not yet directly connected with Congregational churches, and therefore are not reported in our Year-Book; and *whereas,* the fact that these schools are not included in our denominational statistics causes embarrassment to our Sunday School workers, misleads the public as to the extent and strength of our work, and sometimes hinders the development of these Sunday Schools into Congregational churches, therefore,

Resolved, That the secretary of the Council be directed to publish in the Year-Book the statistics of at least the name and membership of each of these Sunday Schools in each state, so far as they are reported by the state secretaries. 1892, p. 18.

Moderator

That in the opinion of the Council honorary members are not eligible to the office of moderator. 1880, p. 1.

The committee, after stating the three possible interpretations of the moderator's office, and discussing the same, presented the following resolution:

Resolved, That in view of the widening opportunities of Congregationalism and its increasing desire for fellowship through denominational representation, it is the sense of this Council that the moderator interpret his position generously, as having, in addition to presiding duties, a representative function; that visiting, upon invitation, churches and associations so far as he may be able and disposed, addressing the churches, if in his judgment occasion requires it, and, in general, serving the churches, be regarded as his prerogative. But it is understood that all his acts and utterances shall be devoid of authority, and that for them shall be claimed and to them given only such weight and force as there are weight and force in the reason of them. 1904, p. 412.

Honorary Moderator

On motion of Rev. W. H. Day, of Connecticut, seconded by Rev. J. N. Pierce, of Washington, D. C., the Council by a unanimous rising vote elected President Calvin Coolidge as an Honorary Moderator. The Moderator was instructed to communicate to the President at once this action of the Council. 1923, p. 199.

The following telegram was forwarded to President Coolidge:

The President of the United States,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

The National Council of Congregational Churches of the United States now meeting in Springfield, Massachusetts, has this day honored itself by electing you Honorary Moderator. The enthusiastic, unanimous vote of the Council is a witness of our pride in you and of our confidence that in your high office you are serving God and promoting His reign of peace and good will in all the earth. God give you strength and success.

ROCKWELL HARMON POTTER,
Moderator

1923, p. 200.

The Moderator read the following telegram from the President of the United States:

Washington, D. C.,
October 17, 5:45 P. M.

Rev. Rockwell Harmon Potter,
Moderator National Council of Congregational Churches,
Springfield, Mass.

Please convey my thanks to the Council for honoring me with the office of Honorary Moderator. The strength of religion is the strength of the State. Your devotion to the cause of righteousness is a guarantee of the permanent security of our institutions.

CALVIN COOLIDGE.

1923, p. 201.

Duties of the Moderator

By-laws III.

Moore, W. H., Special message to, 1901, p. 20.

Mormonism

(See also New West Education Commission.)

On the recommendation of the same committee, the memorial on polygamy was adopted—to be signed by the officers of the Council and sent to Washington, to the President of the United States, and to the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives—and is as follows:

"The National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States respectfully represents: That, in the territory of Utah, the practice of polygamy has prevailed in contravention of Christian morality and the laws of the United States, and that the Supreme Court of the United States has decided that such a violation of law and morals cannot be defended by the plea of rights of conscience; and that nevertheless this violation of law is still persisted in, and that one who is believed by the nation to be guilty of this violation of law and morals has been chosen as a representative of the territory of Utah, and has taken his seat as such in the House of Representatives.

"In view of these facts, we earnestly entreat you to put forth all your influence and power to sustain the law, and to make sure the infliction of just punishment on all offenders.

"The acts of which we complain are part of an immoral system, hostile to our national welfare and to Christian civilization. Nevertheless, the advocates of that system are making ceaseless efforts to extend it and to gain ascendency in other territories, thereby endangering the highest interests of this nation in coming generations.

"We pray you, therefore, to see to it that neither Utah, nor any other territory in which so malignant a system exists, shall ever, until it is removed, be admitted into our Union as a state, to corrupt our national politics, and to give new power to the worst elements of human society." 1880, pp. 25, 30.

Resolved, That we recognize with respect a loyal and intelligent minority resident in Utah; and that we protest in advance against the admission of Utah as a state at any time without the consent of that loyal minority. 1886, p. 25.

Resolved, That James B. Angell, of Michigan; Rev. William M. Brooks, of Iowa; John G. Jennings, of Ohio, be a committee to appoint a committee of five to proceed to Utah and make a thorough and careful examination of Mormonism, its character and temper and purpose; and especially to examine the condition of Christian schools, particularly our own, and ascertain their fitness as instruments for the weakening and ultimate overthrow of that gigantic evil. 1886, p. 25. Statement of, pp. 160, 173.

It was *voted,* That the secretary of this Council be instructed to communicate to our brethren of the Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, and Episcopal Churches our action in appointing a commission to look into the Mormon question, and make report to the churches and the country, and to request them to appoint similar commissions for the same purpose, and to suggest the propriety of co-operation by all these commissions. 1886, p. 37.

Report of commission (no action); commission continued. 1889, p. 238.

Report of Commission (no action). 1892, p. 29. Report on, p. 270.

Resolved, That this Council urges upon the Congress of the United States careful consideration of the question of the submission to the various state legislatures of an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, declaring polygamy a crime against the national government. 1901, p. 33.

Resolved, That the moderator and secretary of this Council be a committee whose duty it shall be to communicate the previous resolution to the Congress of the United States, and to endeavor to secure action thereon.

The attitude of the Congregational churches toward this iniquity is the same now that it always has been—one of open and unqualified hostility. In every right way, by individuals, the church, and the nation, we believe that polygamy ought to be opposed, until in all the land none are left either to practice or to defend it. To this end we pledge our influence and our endeavor. 1904, p. 536.

Motion Pictures

Be it Resolved, that the National Council confirms the appointment of this committee which is directed to make investigation of the whole subject and present recommendations to the next meeting of the National Council. 1927, p. 224.

Resolved, 1. That the Executive Committee be requested to give consideration to this question and decide upon some existing or non-existing agency which would be the most logical and effective medium for the collection and distribution of information essential for present and prospective users of pictures.

2. That the first effort of the agency selected be the preparation, periodically, of lists of pictures suitable for church use. 1929, pp. 228, 229.

National Council

(See also Commission of Nineteen.)

It was *voted,* That a committee of three be appointed to prepare, for the information of the churches, a paper embodying the results of the deliberations of this body in regard to the several great parts of the Christian work. 1871, p. 38.

It was *resolved,* That it be recommended to the individual members of this Council to secure, at an early day, special meetings of the local bodies which they respectively represent, with a view to do all they can to diffuse the influence of the Council and to bring the churches into the fullest possible sympathy and co-operation with the great objects which the Council seeks to promote; or, in default of such special meetings, that they seek to accomplish the same object at the next ensuing meetings of these bodies. 1871, p. 62.

Overture from General Association of New Jersey referred to a committee, and the report of the committee was adopted.

Resolved, That while we believe there is a place in the Congregational polity for a national conference meeting statedly solely as an expression of fellowship, we totally disapprove of National Councils meeting statedly to give advice in denominational matters as subversive of Congregationalism; and we express our strong conviction that such a body should be called only in grave emergencies, and by invitation from the state associations or conferences of Congregational churches.

We had supposed that it was universally understood that this body is not a council in the technical ecclesiastical sense of the term. We have no advice to give to the churches, in the historic sense which that word has in our communion, as the deliverance of a council called together by churches asking for advice. As a national body we sustain the same relation to all the churches here represented that a state body sustains to its own constituency, and the objection to the meeting of a national body would lie against the meeting of a state body.

The councils which express fellowship and give advice to churches that ask it we leave to their own province. As the association expresses the conviction that "there is a place in the Congregational polity for a national conference meeting statedly solely as an expression of fellowship," we differ only in that *we* do not define fellowship as the sole end of our meeting. It is a leading and an invaluable end, but other important results are happily secured with it. Our constitution provides that "this

National Council shall never exercise legislative or judicial authority, nor consent to act as a council of reference.'' While this provision is respected, there can be no subversion of our principles in our proceedings, and we discover no tendency in that direction.

Resolved, That the objects of the National Council, as defined in its constitution, namely, in behalf of the Congregational churches of the United States, ''to express and foster their substantial unity in doctrine, polity, and work, and to consult upon the common interests of all the churches, their duties in the work of evangelization, the united development of their resources, and their relation to all parts of the kingdom of Christ,'' are objects of commanding importance; and to their prosecution the Council has faithfully and vigorously addressed itself, illustrating the wisdom of its establishment and vindicating its right to be. 1877, pp. 19, 37.

Resolved (1), That this Council has received with great respect the memorials of the associations of New York, New Jersey, and Oregon, and Washington Territory also, and of the Hudson River Association; and after earnest consideration of the suggestions therein contained feels constrained to express its conviction that the existence of a National Council, under the present constitution and rules, is not only a safe and useful bond of fellowship among our churches, and a means of great possible benefit to them, but is an instrument vindicated in its employment, and by the churches generally approved; and that it sees no cause to deny itself the simple method of expressing its judgment on all questions properly coming before it as a conference, in that way of voting universally understood and employed in all our religious assemblies.

Resolved (2), That this National Council, in the future as in the past, should welcome any suggestions which may promote its best efficiency; and that we deem it cause of sincere congratulation that in this session, as in the last, there has been, even on ecclesiastical questions, substantial unanimity.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to enter into correspondence with the organizations which have memorialized this body on the subject of the Council, invite them to consider what measures are necessary to allay the apprehensions expressed in the memorials laid before us, and to make the Council more efficient for the purposes for which it was organized, as expressed in its constitution, which committee shall report to the next triennial Council the result of their correspondence, with their recommendations thereon. 1880, p. 26.

On recommendation of the Executive Committee it was voted:

That the Executive Committee be authorized to move the office of the National Council to New York when it shall seem expedient to it so to do. 1919, p. 20.

The following was presented by the Committee on Resolutions:

The Prevailing Spirit

Resolved, That we recognize the seriousness and complexity of the problems of denominational organization which have confronted this Council, and the wide divergence of opinion that has prevailed concerning them; and we wish to congratulate the Council upon the splendid spirit of fellowship in which all discussions have been conducted and all conclusions reached. No root of bitterness remains, but only a common purpose for the good of the Church and of the Kingdom of God.

Near East Relief

Voted, That one Sunday in the year be designated as Near East Sunday for special presentation of this cause and for contributions to its work.

That the National Council appoint a Near East Committee of five members to co-operate with the National Near East Relief and with state organizations in its behalf.

That the State Conferences be requested to appoint state committees for the same purpose. 1921, p. 379.

Rev. Clarence H. Wilson, of New Jersey, presented the following resolutions which were adopted:

Whereas, The tragedy of Armenia, which has shocked the civilized world, has made effective appeal to the Christian generosity of the American people; and

Whereas, A continuance of this relief work is imperative if all that has been done is not in vain, and

Whereas, In the present critical situation, the intervention of our own and Allied governments has become necessary to avert a final disaster at the hands of the Nationalist Turks, be it

Resolved, That the National Council of Congregational Churches commends the work of the Near East Relief to the churches and Sunday Schools represented in this body, for their prayers and their continued financial support and suggests that Sunday, the 20th day of November, be set apart for the presentation of this cause.

That we authorize the Commission on Missions to receive and transmit funds specified for this object, and to lend such other aid as it may without interference with its own program;

That we appeal to the President, and implore him to use the good offices of the United States Government to the utmost for the protection of these people; and

That copies of these resolutions, duly attested by the Secretary of the National Council, be sent to the Secretary of the State for the President, to the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the United States Senate, and to the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the United States House of Representatives. 1921, pp. 380, 381.

Work approved. 1923, pp. 53 and 205. See also p. 237.

Approval and resolutions. 1923, pp. 53-55; 1927, p. 221; 1929, p. 54.

Negroes

(See also Race Relations, and American Missionary Association.)

Whereas, In the wonderful progress of providential events within the last ten years the colored population of this country have been advanced to full participation in political rights; and

Whereas, We are all interested in the highest educational and religious development of this class of our population; therefore,

Resolved, That it is the duty and should be the privilege of our own churches, as well as of other churches, *especially in the North,* so far as their influence extends, to throw open the doors of our churches, schools, and colleges to the full participation of these our fellow citizens, without any discrimination on account of color. 1871, p. 58.

It having come to the knowledge of this Council that one of its members, a pastor of a Congregational church in Knoxville, Tennessee, on Thursday last was refused service at Mossop's restaurant, Number 464 West Madison Street, Chicago, solely on account of his color, therefore,

Resolved, That as a Council we put on record our sense of indignation at this act of discourtesy and barbarity, and express the hope that the proprietor of this restaurant will not be permitted to escape the penalty for such action imposed by the laws of Illinois. 1886, p. 36.

The National Council of Congregational Churches recognize with gratitude the splendid advances made by the Negro race in the South in the accumulation of property and the advancement of education and morals, in the face of obstacles that might well have daunted a less hopeful and devout people; also the awakening conscience and growing interest, by the better class of citizens, in regard to their civil and political rights. But we deplore the continuance of the lawless spirit and the acts of violence, in many parts of the South, of which they are the direst victims; a condition of society that at once hinders the work of our educational and religious societies for the elevation of this suffering race, and menaces the very foundations of our national existence.

We therefore declare our sympathy with, and give our earnest support to, the oppressed of every race and class who are suffering in the struggle to assert their rights under the federal constitution; we also declare that our religious faith and political principles require that every citizen shall enjoy the protection of just laws framed in accordance with the spirit of the federal constitution; and that they shall have the right to cast a full ballot and have that ballot counted as cast, without distinction of race. 1892, p. 39.

In view of the fundamental principles of Congregationalism and our historic attitude with respect to the brotherhood of man, be it resolved that this National Council of Congregational Churches of the United States for 1907 hereby condemns in Christ's name all race prejudice, and especially does it deplore the mob violence so frequently visited upon the negro people; and that it further pleads for that increasing mutual helpfulness between the races, which alone can most effectively eradicate racial antipathy. 1907, p. 429.

''The historic attitude of the Congregational churches of the United States has been consistently for fair play, justice, and equality of opportunity for the negro people. It stands today on this platform.

''Therefore this Council views with profound concern the tendency to extend the principle of segregation in discrimination against the negro race. We regard this form of race humiliation as violating the spirit of the Constitution and opposed to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

''The Council, therefore, makes earnest and respectful appeal to President Wilson to use his authority to prevent any such humiliation of employees under the National Government.'' 1913, p. 391.

In view of the widespread lawlessness which has found particularly vicious expression in trampling upon the rights of black men and women, the National Council of Congregational Churches of the United States reaffirming the historic attitude of our churches, again voices its disapproval of mob law and racial hatred.

We demand for the negro equal rights before the law and the complete citizenship guaranteed by the constitution. We believe he is entitled to equal service at equal cost and to equal educational opportunity with white men. We urge our churches to give attention to the acute problems confronting the negro in the North in relation to housing, industrial freedom, and social justice. We commend our negro brothers and sisters for their Christian patience and sacrificial service in these great and trying days.

We specifically commend the Congregational mayor of Omaha, Mr. E. P. Smith, for his heroic stand in protecting a negro from mob trial. We also recommend to Congress the passage of a law making lynching a national offense. 1919, p. 40.

(See under Delegates on question of White and Colored State Conferences.)

New West Education Commission

(See also Congregational Education Society, 1892.)

Resolved (1), That this Council recommends the New West Education Commission to confer with the American Home Missionary Society, with a view to securing from that society the hearty acceptance and vigorous prosecution of the special work for which the commission has been organized.

Resolved (2), That in the event of the failure to secure this result after such conference, this Council heartily commends the work of the New West Education Commission to the prayers and the practical co-operation of the churches represented in this body. Paper on, p. 174. 1880, p. 29. Report on, p. 200.

Whereas, The new West, dominated by Mormon and Jesuitical hierarchies, differing materially from the old West, having society already organized and opposed to evangelical Christianity, higher civilization, and the American government, makes the problem of bringing it into full allegiance to Christ and our republican institutions most difficult; and

Whereas, Mormonism, through the tyrannical priestly influence, made strong by the fallacious claim that all its commands are by divine revelation, holds a large body of followers in six states and territories in such subjection as to make their antagonism threaten disaster to the nation, effectually preventing the introduction of Christianity into the new West by ordinary methods; and

Whereas, The Christian free school, as organized and superintended by the New West Education Commission, has proved an effective means of undermining Mormon influence by enlightening the youth, interesting adults, and inspiring communities with true Christian zeal, and thus best preparing the way for the establishment of Christian churches; and

Whereas, The work now presents peculiarly favorable opportunities for enlargement and greatly increased usefulness, and is made more urgent by the increased efforts of Mormon leaders to preoccupy the field by schools which are hostile to Christianity and righteous government; and

Whereas, The commission has continued the prosecution of its work in accordance with the advice asked of and given by the last National Council; therefore,

Resolved, That this National Council, in this its fifth triennial session, earnestly renews its commendation of the work of the New West Education Commission, and urgently presses upon our churches the obligation to give to it that prayerful and hearty sympathy and that prompt and generous financial support which its past record, its present activity, and future prospects entitle it to receive. 1883, p. 28.

Statement of, 1889, p. 159; Report on statement, 1889, p. 181.

Oberlin College

(See Theological Seminaries.)

Old South Church

Reply to a memorial through the Suffolk South Association regarding the apportionment. 1921, p. 387.

Olivet College

The following was adopted:

In view of the past history and present necessity and opportunity of Olivet College, and the effort now being made to increase its endowment,

Resolved, That this Council recommends to the attention of the people of our order the imperative necessity of immediate aid in raising the $100,000 necessary before December 1, 1913, in order to secure $150,000 already pledged, and on which it is believed a further endowment of $250,000 in the near future depends. 1913, p. 404.

Opium Traffic

Voted, That in view of the distressing condition in China occasioned by the continued traffic in opium, the National Council of Congregational Churches earnestly requests that the State Department use its good offices to the end that this traffic may cease. 1921, p. 385.

Oregon

Whereas, The forty-first Congress, third session, ordered the printing of executive document Number 37, containing information in relation to the early labors of the missionaries of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in Oregon, commencing in 1836; and *whereas,* only a few hundred copies of said document were printed, although many thousand copies of executive document Number 38, of the thirty-fifth Congress, adverse to said missions and flagrantly unjust to the memories of our faithful countrymen who were massacred, were printed and widely scattered; therefore,

Resolved (1), That this National Council of Congregational Churches assembled at Oberlin, Ohio, November 15, 1871, uniting with other religious bodies, do earnestly petition Congress to issue a second and much larger edition of said document Number 37, of the forty-first Congress, third session, in order that the friends of missions and the public generally may have the facts before them relating to the great service which Dr. Whitman and his compeers rendered to our country in saving our northwest coast from the grasp of a foreign power, and in providentially preserving its vast area, with all its wealth and resources, for the benefit of our whole nation.

Resolved (2), That in presenting this petition to Congress, we wish not only to do justice to the memory of the martyred dead and to do honor to living Christian patriots, but also to show how God blesses our nation incidentally through its Christian missions.

The Provisional Committee were instructed to lay the foregoing action before Congress at their discretion, in connection with the matter of the education of the freedmen. 1871, p. 47.

Pastoral Relations

(See also Ministers.)

It was *voted,* That the resolution on the Pastoral Relation be referred to the committee to be appointed on the paper on Pastorless Churches. 1877, p. 21.

Voted, That the whole subject of the pastorate, as referred to in the report of the secretary and in the report of the committee on said report, be referred to a committee of five, who shall communicate with the general state organizations as to some method whereby both the communion of the churches and the recognition of persons virtually pastors, though not installed by council, may be secured, and shall report at the next meeting. 1880, pp. 27, 28. Report on, p. 198.

Committee appointed and recommendations offered. Substitute introduced. Report, with recommendations and substitute, referred to a committee. 1895, p. 37.

Report of committee, p. 344. No action. (See also Ministers.) 1898, pp. 18, 33.

1. That no amendment be made to the resolution of 1886 (see under Ministers); but

2. That a committee of five be appointed to take under consideration the whole question herein involved, and to report to the next Council the facts and their causes relating to the customs of our churches in initiating the pastorate, together with such suggestions of remedy as, on mature deliberation, they may deem necessary and effectual. 1898, p. 33.

Resolved (1), The National Council advises some formal method of induction into the pastorate of Congregational churches; either by Installing Council, or, when that is not practicable, by Council of Recognition, which will emphasize the fellowship of the churches and tend to promote the purity of the ministry.

Resolved (2), We advise that the designation in the Year-Book be as follows, viz.: For those inducted into office by Installing Council "P. I.," and for those using Council of Recognition, "P. R.," that other designations remain unchanged. 1901, pp. 21, 37, 102.

1. That the method of induction into the pastorate be left where it belongs—to the choice of each Congregational Church, as the highest ecclesiastical tribunal recognized by the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. That in the interests of Christian fellowship, influence, and dignity, all ministers inducted by the churches into the pastorate, by whatever method chosen, be recognized simply as pastors, and that no designation be made in the Year-Book except for licentiates, supplies, and ministers of other denominations.

3. That for the sake of order and the maintenance of professional character, ministerial standing shall be found in the conferences or associations of churches and ministers, whose con-

stitution shall conform to their responsibility in vouching for the ministers whose residences are within their bounds.

4. That the fellowship of the churches, as fundamental in our polity as the independence of the local church, can be and should be promoted by exchanges, visits, conferences, associations, conventions, missionary assemblies, by national councils, by mutual councils, councils of recognition, and other ways, as Christian love and wisdom may suggest. 1901, p. 110. (See p. 254.)

Peace

(See American Peace Society, International Relations.)

Periodicals

(See also Advance, Congregationalist.)

Resolved, That, in the judgment of this Council, the consolidation of our various missionary and benevolent magazines into one is desirable, and that the officers of the different societies are respectfully requested to consider the practicability of such a consolidation. 1874, p. 28.

Resolved, That whereas we deem it of essential importance to the interest of our Congregational church members that they should be familiarly acquainted with the current history of the benevolent, spiritual, and business experiences of our churches, we respectfully recommend to them the support of some one of our *denominational newspapers,* East or West. 1877, p. 45.

Resolved (1), That it is the judgment of this Council that the time has come when the best interests of the cause will be better promoted, and the wishes of the churches and pastors more perfectly carried out, by the consolidation of the several periodicals published by the missionary society engaged in the home work.

Resolved (2), That a committee of five be appointed to communicate these resolutions to the societies referred to, and to act as the representatives of this Council in the matter, and that each of the societies be requested to appoint a committee to confer with said committee of five for the promotion of the object sought by this resolution.

The recommendation was that the Council be asked to express by vote its choice between a weekly journal and a monthly magazine.

Such vote was taken, and stood seventy-four for a weekly journal, and forty-five for a monthly magazine. 1889, p. 33.

It was *voted,* That this National Council requests the six national home benevolent societies to unite in publishing a weekly periodical in place of the several now sustained to present their work and needs; and that this be done as soon as it is practicable, in accordance with the plan proposed in the report of the Committee on Missionary Magazines. 1892, pp. 28, 274.

On recommendation of the Committee of Fifteen on Adjustment of Missionary Societies, the following resolution was passed:

Resolved, That we recommend that there shall be one missionary publication devoted to all the missionary work of our churches, to be published monthly and to be equal in literary ability and typographical style to the best publications of the day. 1901, pp. 27, 28, 30.

The consolidation of the missionary magazines published by the various societies was referred to the Advisory Committee for further inquiry. 1907, p. 429.

The Advisory Committee reported as follows:

After careful consideration of the reasons given for the proposed changes, and consideration also of the attitude of the societies determined by their field of service, and their individual needs, the Advisory Committee, at a meeting held on July 8, 1908, passed the following vote:

"*Voted,* That as it is not now feasible to have a single missionary magazine for all the societies, the Advisory Committee recommends that the home societies unite in publishing one Homeland Magazine, to be issued on and after January, 1909."

This action was reported to the home societies, and its recommendation was adopted by them, and for the past year and one half two magazines have been issued, one of which represents all the home societies. 1910, p. 378.

(The Reference is to The American Missionary.)

The following was adopted:

Resolved, That this National Council, convened in Boston, expresses its gratification in the progress which has been made in the consolidation of our missionary magazines and in the fact that the six homeland societies, in accordance with the recommendation of previous councils, have united their magazines in a single joint publication, *The American Missionary,* in which there is given each month a survey of the benevolent and missionary work of our churches in this country; and the Council earnestly recommends all our pastors and churches to extend the circulation of this magazine, endeavoring to secure at least one hundred thousand subscribers, and find a place for it in every family. 1910, p. 399.

Memorial from Illinois on a common periodical, referred to the Executive Committee. 1915, p. 39.

Merger of The Congregationalist and The Advance. (See Advance.)

On recommendation of the Executive Committee the following was voted:

Voted, That the financial support of The Congregationalist be maintained by the Congregational Education Society in continuance of the relation already provisionally made, and that the action of the Apportionment Committee in assigning one and one-half per cent to the Education Society for this purpose be approved. 1921, p. 363.

Recommendation of the Committee of Twelve for the merger of The Congregationalist and all the Missionary Magazines, referred back to the committee for further report. 1925, p. 29.

The Committee of Twelve reported as follows, and the recommendation was adopted:

We see no reason to change our first recommendation providing for the merging of The Congregationalist, The Missionary Herald and The American Missionary into one periodical; nevertheless we have discovered no change in sentiment that would seem to justify pressing this proposal for adoption at the present time against the sentiment expressed at the Washington meeting of the American Board. We therefore recommend that the merger of the periodicals be referred to the new Commission on Missions for their careful consideration. 1927, p. 198.

(Pursuant to this instruction the Commission on Missions later recommended the merger of The Congregationalist and The American Missionary, which combination was effected in 1928.)

Pilgrimage, British

On recommendation of the Business Committee the following was voted:

The Council hears with interest and appreciation of the intention of a large number of English Congregationalists to visit the shrines of the Pilgrims in 1928. Desiring more information concerning the proposed visit and with the purpose of adding to the pleasure and profit of such a visitation, should it occur, the National Council hereby moves to request the Executive Committee to appoint a Committee of Seven to consider the arrangements for receiving the delegation and to confer with the English brethren regarding the proposed visitation. The Council further requests this Committee, in the event of the coming of the delegation, to work out some plan whereby the entire Congregational fellowship of the United States, may have a share in extending our hospitality. This Committee shall report to the Executive Committee of the Council. 1927, p. 233.

Report of the Executive Committee regarding the visit of 1200 British Congregationalists to America on a good will tour. 1929, pp. 14, 15.

Pilgrim Memorial Fund

On recommendation of the Commission on Missions it was voted:

Voted, That our Congregational fellowship address itself to the task of raising as a Pilgrim Memorial Fund the sum of $5,000,000.

Voted, That the securing of this Fund be entrusted to a Pilgrim Memorial Fund Commission of one hundred persons, the same to be chosen on recommendation of the Nominating Committee, the Committee being requested to name a group within the Commission of not more than nine persons as an Executive Committee of the same.

Voted, That to this Commission be given full discretion and authority as to methods of procedure and that our churches and membership be urged to co-operate with it to the utmost measure of their power.

Voted, That funds secured shall be held intact in the custody of the Corporation for the National Council as a perpetual endowment whose proceeds shall be used to provide annuities, disability and death benefits for Congregational Ministers under the control of the Board of Trustees of the Annuity Fund for Congregational ministers and their dependents. 1917, pp. 48, 49.

Report of the Pilgrim Memorial Fund Commission, 1919, pp. 266-282; 1921, pp. 142-155; 1923, pp. 56-60.

The following recommendations having been reviewed and approved by the Commission on Missions were presented by President Cowling, Chairman of said Commission, and were thereupon adopted:

Whereas, The conditions in the business world have radically changed since the original objective of the Pilgrim Memorial Fund was stated as a minimum of $5,000,000, and in view of the informal declaration of the last National Council to make this objective $8,000,000, the Commission on Missions recommends that the Pilgrim Memorial Fund Commission, as appointed at the National Council in 1921, be authorized to undertake to increase the Pilgrim Memorial Fund through legacies and large personal gifts until it shall reach a total of at least $8,000,000. 1921, pp. 365, 366.

On motion the recommendation of the Pilgrim Fund Commission that the further work of the P. M. F. be committed to the Trustees of the Annuity Fund was adopted and the report accepted. 1923, p. 212.

Resolution regarding collection of remainder of subscriptions. 1925, p. 54.

The following is from the report of the Annuity Fund for Congregational Ministers:

Total number of subscriptions, excluding cancellations, December 31, 1926, was 98,728, aggregating $6,077,535. Collections (gross) were $5,394,718, an increase of $182,301 in two years. Expense of organization, $19,571; campaign and field expenses, $190,901; administration and collection, $291,311; transfers, $1,762; total, $503,545; net collections $4,891,173. 1927, p. 137.

Net collections to Dec. 31, 1928, $4,939,802. 1929, p. 133.

For further information regarding the Pilgrim Memorial Fund see Report of the Annuity Fund for Congregational Ministers.

Pilgrim Place

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the National Council of Congregational Churches endorses "Pilgrim Place in Claremont" in its efforts to provide homes for our Ministers, Missionaries, and other Christian Workers, both home and foreign, on furlough or retiring from active service, and commends it to the interest (1) of those who may need its help, and (2) of those who are able to minister to such needs, in providing comfortable homes with pleasant surroundings for honored servants of our churches. 1925, p. 55.

Plymouth, Massachusetts

Visit of Council at Plymouth, Massachusetts, and addresses. 1865, p. 365.

Whereas, Our National Council has placed a bronze tablet on St. Peter's Church in Leyden, Holland, as a fitting memorial of John Robinson, the head of the list of pastors of the Congregational churches of the United States; and

Whereas, Our National Council has co-operated with our English brethren in the erection of the memorial church at Gainsborough, now happily completed, to honor the service of John Robinson; and

Whereas, The Church of the Pilgrimage at Plymouth, Massachusetts, has taken the preliminary steps toward the erection of a memorial church edifice in memory of the founders and defenders of the churches of our order in the United States, with the purpose to complete it and to dedicate it in 1906, the three hundredth anniversary of the organization of the church in Scrooby, England, with which this church is directly connected; therefore,

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Council, the place and time for the erection of such a memorial are fitting, and the Church of the Pilgrimage a proper body to undertake it; and this Council cordially indorses and commends this work in the interests of all our churches, and to the honor of those noble men and women who brought to Plymouth the precious heritage which we enjoy of religious and civil freedom, and who planted there the church to which we are indebted for the cherished principles and polity preserved in the fellowship of Congregational churches. 1901, pp. 25, 36.

Polity

(See also Manual.)

The report of the Committee on Church Polity embodied: *First,* The fitness and desirableness of such a statement; *second,* the principles which ought to determine the character and contents of the document to be issued; *third,* the kind and degree of authority with which such a document proceeding from this Council should be invested; *fourth,* the form of a statement to be adopted, with or without amendment, or to be rejected, as the Council shall see fit. 1865, pp. 102-115, 117-133.

Whereas, This Council views with interest and general approval the attempts being made, in various parts of the land, to render our Congregational polity more effective; and

Whereas, It is highly important that any changes should both conserve our essential principles and develop consistent and uniform organization and methods; therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of nine be appointed by this Council to do what may be done, on its own initiative, and in conference and co-operation with local and state bodies, for the better adjustment of our Congregational order to existing conditions. 1904, p. 542. Report on, p. 557.

Report of Committee on Polity. 1907, pp. 340-352.

The following recommendations by the Committee on Polity were adopted:

Your committee, having carefully considered the data before them in the light of the resolution under which they were instructed to act, unite in the following recommendations:

I. That our local or district bodies of churches and ministers be uniformly designated "Associations," our state bodies "Conferences," and our national organization, as at present, "National Council."

II. That inasmuch as the ministry constitute an office within the church, and not a class apart from or above the church, ministerial standing be vested in local associations of churches, which should, wherever necessary, so amend their constitutions as to provide for ministerial members and the custody of their standing.

III. That the transfer of either a minister or a church from one local association to another be by express vote of the dismissing body, and not be delegated to officials empowered to act between meetings.

IV. That a minister removing from the bounds of one local association to those of another should at an early day transfer his relation, and that such constitutional limitation should be placed upon tenure of membership as to relieve the association of continued responsibility for non-resident members.

V. That the approved list of ministerial members and churches in good standing be presented by each local association, and be accepted without modification by the state registrar and by the National Council secretary for the Year-Book.

VI. That the designations "p." and "p. c." be omitted from the statistical tables of the Year-Book, and that pastors installed be designated by "i.," and pastors recognized, by "r."

VII. That larger recognition be given to the place of the local association of churches as a conciliar body to act in cooperation with the state and national organizations in the interest of the churches; and that, in view of its close relation to the churches composing it, its own life and autonomy be carefully safeguarded by the continuance of such direct representation as now obtains in the constituted membership of the National Council.

VIII. That the membership of a state conference be constituted by representatives of all such churches and by all such ministers as are in good standing in the local associations of the state.

IX. That the local association, composed of churches and ministers and hence thoroughly representative of the churches, which holds both licensure and ministerial standing, be also the agency for ordination, the initiative always to be taken by the local church.

X. That the state organizations become legally incorporated bodies; and that under a general superintendent and such boards as they may create, and acting in co-operation with committees of local associations and churches, they provide for and direct the extension of church work, the planting of churches, the mutual oversight and care of all self-sustaining as well as missionary churches, and other missionary and church activities, to the end that closer union may insure greater efficiency without curtailing local independence.

In harmony with this view of representative Congregationalism, your committee unite in this further special recommendation:

XI. That the administration of the benevolent interests of our churches be directed by the representatives of the churches in national organization, and that this Council appoint a commission of fifteen, including a representative from each of our benevolent societies, who shall report at its next regular meeting such an adjustment of these societies to the body of the churches represented in this Council as shall secure such direction, care being taken to safeguard existing constitutional provisions of these societies and the present membership of their boards of control, but also to lodge, hereafter, the creation and continuance of these administrative boards in the suffrage of the representatives of the churches. 1907, pp. 345, 346.

Report on recommendation of 1907. 1910, pp. 276-286.

(For information on the reorganization of the National Council, see Commission of Nineteen.)

Suggested form of a constitution for a local church adopted. 1919, p. 190.

Constitution for International Council approved. 1919, p. 210.

Constitution for a District Association, referred for further study. 1919, p. 204.

The Executive Committee reported its replies to questions on polity as follows:

1. May an acting pastor of a Congregational church, himself not a Congregationalist, sit in a vicinage council of Congregational churches?

In the judgment of your Committee such a minister, serving as de facto pastor of an invited church and sent by that church to a council in which it has been invited to be represented by its minister and a delegate, has a right to a seat in the council. If the inviting church does not desire such a minister to be a member of the Council, its remedy is to omit the church which he is serving as acting pastor from its list of invited churches, and if, in an extreme case a majority of the invited churches agree that such a minister should not be a member of the proposed council, their remedy is to decline to send delegates, and thus to prevent the council. But there are abundant precedents for the sitting of non-Congregational ministers in such councils.

2. May a minister hold his standing both in a Congregational Association and in some other ecclesiastical body?

The National Council in 1898 answered this question in the negative, a serious question having at that time arisen with regard to a particular and notorious case. But within the period of thirty years which has elapsed since that action the movement for federated churches has risen and has caused the question to rise again and from another direction. A number of cases have occurred in which ministers have secured such double standing. Your Committee is of the opinion that such double standing is still irregular, and that in case of discipline it might result in confusion. A minister might be expelled from one ecclesiastical body and still be in good standing in another. This, however, might not be so serious as would at first appear, as the body that expelled him would have no further responsibility for him, and the other body would be at liberty to retain him so long as he appeared to his fellow members in that body to be making his calling and election sure, and they also could discipline him if and when he seemed to them to merit discipline. In the present flux of usage growing out of our federated churches and our movements toward closer integration, your committee would not recommend any drastic action; but in the interest of good order we suggest that a minister ought to be responsible to one and only one ecclesiastical body and that an affiliated relation with a corresponding body of another denomination would be more nearly regular than a divided allegiance, and a divided disciplinary responsibility. We therefore advise that the Executive Committee recommend to the Council that it in turn recommend to conferences and associations the affiliated relation when a second standing is desired.

3. Should there be a limit to the size of associations?

While the National Council has no authority to determine the size of associations, it has a right to determine its own membership, and the distribution of its money for the payment of expenses of delegates to the meeting of the National Council. Your Committee therefore suggests that the Executive Committee propose an amendment to Article III of the Constitution to the effect that associations of six or more churches shall be entitled to elect delegates, as was provided in the original Constitution. 1929, pp. 13, 14.

Porto Rico

On recommendation of the Executive Committee it was voted that the Porto Rico Conference be given associational representation in the Council meeting, but not conference representation also. 1927, p. 193.

Prayer, Day of

(See also Fast Day.)

Report of the committee on Day of Prayer and Fasting. 1865, p. 492.

It was *resolved,* That this seventh National Council recommends that each and all of the Congregational churches of these United States unite at as early a date as practicable in the observance of a special day of prayer for the baptism of the Holy Ghost and of fire, and that a committee of three be appointed to name such day. 1889, p. 30.

The recommendation was adopted, namely, that Sunday, November 17, be the day for such special service, and that all our ministers be requested to preach upon the subject on that day. 1889, p. 44.

FOR COLLEGES

Resolved, That this Council urges the more general and earnest observance of the last Thursday in January as the day of prayer for colleges, as a means of seeking and securing continued and increased spiritual life in all institutions of learning. 1895, p. 24.

Prison Reform

Whereas, Our Lord has enjoined upon us a remembrance of the prisoner; and *whereas,* the prisoner, by reason of his forlorn and helpless and sometimes despised condition, is liable to neglect; therefore,

Resolved (1), That it is the duty of Christian men to be mindful both of his temporal and his spiritual welfare, always remembering that the gospel is able to save the prisoner as easily as every other sinner, and ought to be faithfully proclaimed to him as to all other men.

Resolved (2), That this Council puts on record its interest in all true reform in the administration of our prisoners, and commends to our churches, so far as it may be practicable, the observance of such day as may be publicly designated as Prisoners' Sunday.

Resolved (3), That we commend to the Provisional Committee an arrangement for a formal presentment at the next Council of the subject of the Christian care of prisoners. 1889, p. 41.

1. That our prisons ought never to be allowed to become the spoil of merely partisan victory at the polls.

2. That the administration of our prisons ought, if possible, always to be in the hands of officers who are characterized by enthusiasm in the work of reclaiming erring men to a manly life. 1892, p. 29.

Resolved, That, recognizing the importance of the work of prison reform as represented by the American Prison Association, we recommend that, as far as possible, our churches observe the Sabbath designated as Prison Sunday with such peculiar services, or special addresses, as shall contribute to the advancement of this cause.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by this Council who shall report at its next meeting on the relation and responsibility of our churches to the convict population of our country. 1892, p. 35.

It was *voted,* That a committee of two be given leave, in our name, but without expense to the Council, to commend the observance of Prison Sunday to all our pastors. 1898, pp. 19, 37. Report on, p. 327.

Prohibition

(See also Temperance and Law and Order.)

The Council recommends that everything possible be done to assist in the fight for national prohibition, which is the next great objective of the moral forces, and that to make the work effective the Temperance Commission choose some one (preferably its chairman) for two years who will get at once into the campaign in co-operation with other organizations to win a two-thirds vote in the House of Representatives at its next session for the submission of the Amendment to the states and to take part in the various state campaigns for that amendment, and the Council authorizes the Commission to raise the necessary funds.

The Council, recognizing the successful work that other organizations are doing, recommends that the Congregational Churches give to the Anti-Saloon League, as the chief leader in the fight for National Prohibition, its special sympathy and support.

The Council, feeling profoundly the need as a war measure of conserving all the resources of the United States that the people may be properly fed and nourished and that the success of its righteous war may be insured, appeals to the President most respectfully and urgently, into whose hand the authority has been given, to forbid during the period of the war the use of all food values in the manufacture of all alcoholic liquors, including beer and wine to be used as a beverage, and to forbid the sale and importation of such liquors. 1917, p. 37.

On recommendation of the Business Committee the following telegram was ordered sent:

To the United States Senate:

> The National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States in session at Grand Rapids, Michigan, requests your honorable body to pass promptly the "Code for Enforcement of National Prohibition" over the President's veto. 1919, p. 38.

The Constitution of the United States and the Amendments added thereto are legally binding upon every Federal, State and local officer and individual citizen of the United States. To violate the Eighteenth Amendment, or encourage the repeal or modification of the laws that are necessary to its enforcement, is both indefensible and reprehensible. The safety of society is in obedience to its laws; to defy the laws of the land or aid lawlessness, undermines, and if not checked, will eventually destroy government. We respectfully suggest to those who are opposed to the Eighteenth Amendment that they openly advocate its repeal, or observe it, until it is repealed or changed.

We express confidence in the courage, wisdom and integrity of the Chief Executive of the United States and commend his purpose to take such action as is necessary to prevent the violations of the Eighteenth Amendment and the laws enacted pursuant thereto.

We urge the people and officials in every state to do their full share through state and local officers to enforce Constitutional Prohibition.

We pledge support to our Commission on Temperance and urge our people to co-operate with it and to continue their moral and financial support of the Anti-Saloon League of America in the successful work it is doing to sustain and enforce the Prohibition Laws of the States and Nation. 1923, p. 235.

In the long struggle of the Church to abolish the liquor traffic, we have learned that it is easier to secure the enactment of a law than its enforcement. In view of the continued lawlessness of that traffic, we appeal to our local churches and to all other church bodies to co-operate in the necessary educational work to build public sentiment and support faithful public officials in the enforcement of the law.

In order that the day of general observance of the Eighteenth Amendment may be hastened, we further call upon all patriotic citizens, in the language of the message of President Coolidge, "Not only to obey the law but to let it be known they are opposed to its violation."

We reaffirm our actions of the last Council in asking support for our own Commission on Law Enforcement, and in giving moral and financial support to the Anti-Saloon League of America, whose successful work has received the continued approval of the Council. We recommend that the Executive Committee make an appropriation if possible for the work of our Commission on Law Enforcement. 1925, p. 50.

Whereas, Despite flagrant violations and poor enforcement, great social and economic achievements have already been effected through the operation of the Prohibition laws, and

Whereas, We believe it to be a Christian duty and a patriotic necessity to promote the observance of the statutes both individually and socially, therefore be it

Resolved, That the National Council of Congregational Churches commit itself again to the support of the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution and the Volstead Act, and urge upon all public officials from the President to the local police, neither repeal of the amendment nor weakening of the Volstead Act, but a more aggressive and determined effort in their enforcement and be it further

Resolved, That we recognize the notable work of the Anti-Saloon League as an agency of the churches in the past, that we recommend to its officers a careful review of policy in consultation with leaders of church bodies, both state and national, and that in anticipation of such review and subsequent adjustments, we recommend it to the continued and active support of our constituency in serving the cause of law and order in general as well as prohibition in particular. 1927, p. 222.

Property, Church

It was recommended:

1. That the executive boards of the Congregational Church Building Society and of the Congregational Home Missionary Society be requested by this National Council to act as a joint committee to undertake this important work.

2. That where funds so secured cannot now be wisely used in the localities where they were originally given, the money be placed in the treasuries of these two societies for the general church building and home missionary work of the denomination.

3. That this joint committee seek the co-operation of the officers of other denominations having independent government for their local churches, and endeavor to secure, in each state, legislation which shall enable independent churches legally to preserve church property for denominational uses.

4. We also suggest the inquiry whether it is practicable and wise for our national and state home missionary societies, in granting aid to churches, to secure some legal claim to the property of such aided churches, so that a part or all of the money thus granted may be returned to the societies, if the churches shall disband.

5. We urge upon individuals making special gifts directly to churches, which also receive aid from the Church Building Society, to provide that those gifts be included in the society's trust mortgage. We call the attention of churches not aided by the Building Society to the importance of preserving their property for Congregational uses by similar legal safeguards; and we ask this joint committee to prepare legal forms which may be used by churches desiring thus to protect their property.

6. We ask this joint committee to report at the next meeting of the National Council what shall have been done in response to these recommendations. 1898, p. 31. Report on, p. 117.

It was *voted,* That the secretaries of the Congregational Church Building Society and of the Congregational Home Missionary Society, together with a committee of three to be appointed by this Council, be requested, as a joint committee,

1. To ascertain the facts in each state as to church property now idle or lost, whether or not such property was secured in part by or through the agency of such societies; that such joint committee be requested to initiate such legal or other action as may save for Congregational uses such property.

2. That where property or funds so secured cannot now be wisely used in the localities where they were originally given, the money be placed in the treasuries of these two societies for the general church building and home missionary work of the denomination.

3. We also suggest the inquiry whether it is practicable and wise for our national and state home missionary societies, in granting aid to churches, to secure some legal claim to the property of such aided churches, so that a part or all of the

money thus granted may be returned to the societies if the churches shall disband.

4. We urge upon individuals making specific gifts directly to churches, which also receive aid from the Church Building Society, to provide that those gifts be included in the society's trust mortgage.

5. We ask this joint committee to report at the next meeting of the National Council what shall have been done in response to these recommendations. 1901, p. 44.

Report of committee, p. 408. 1904, p. 536.

Voted on recommendation of the Committee on Church Property that the committee be continued and that it especially aim to secure

1. The incorporation of all state associations not yet incorporated.

2. The legal transfer in trust to each incorporated state association of unused church property within its state.

3. The protection by deeds of trust of all property given to Congregational churches, so that in case the church dissolves, or ceases to be Congregational, its property shall not be lost to the denomination.

4. The holding in trust by state associations of such church property and endowment funds as may be committed to them. 1907, p. 264.

We renew our recommendation that this National Council continue a Committee on Church Property, which shall aim to secure,—

(1) Incorporation of all state conferences and the legal merger with them of the state home missionary societies.

(2) The legal transfer in trust, to each incorporated state conference, of unused church property within the state; and that such funds be invested as provided by law for the investment of trust funds by trustees or guardians; and that the State Conference shall also act as the trustee of such real estate and endowment funds as individual churches may wish to convey to it in trust, with the aim of conserving such property for denominational uses within the state.

(3) That instruction in legal and business matters with especial reference to church property shall be a recognized part of the instruction in all our theological seminaries.

(4) That this committee shall continue its efforts to assist the officers of each State Conference in securing a complete

enumeration of unused church properties and the sale of such properties wherever possible, the proceeds to be used for Congregational Home Missions and Church Building within the state, and that the committee report at the next meeting of the National Council the number of such unused properties by states and the number transferred to the State Conference in trust or sold and the proceeds deposited with the State Conference.

(5) The securing in each state of such legislation as will facilitate the sale of unused properties, and the transfer of real estate and endowment funds to the State Conference as trustee.

(6) The appointment by each State Conference of a Church Property Committee which shall employ a legal adviser and shall give attention to Congregational Church property matters within the state, and co-operate with the National Council's Committee on Church Property. 1910, pp. 247, 248.

The following recommendations of the Committee on Church Property were adopted:

1. That in each state so far as practicable the general state work of our Congregational churches shall be done by one organization, preferably the incorporated State Conference, whose responsibility shall include the aid of weak churches and the care of home missionary churches in co-operation with the National Society, and the administration of ministerial relief funds in co-operation with the National Board of Ministeral Relief.

2. That each incorporated State Conference shall act as the legal trustee of Congregational endowment funds, and shall welcome the increase of such funds by gifts and legacies, and shall hold real estate titles in trust for individual churches when such action seems wise.

3. That each State Conference shall make a detailed list of all unused church properties, make sales when it may seem expedient, and use the proceeds as endowment funds for church work within the state.

4. That each State Conference shall have a Church Property Committee, which shall advise the churches with reference to the laws affecting church property, shall seek to secure any needed changes in state laws, and shall assist the officers of the State Conference in all matters affecting church property and trust funds.

It is the judgment of your committee that its work can probably be more efficiently done in the future from denominational headquarters, and that among the duties of the enlarged secretaryship may well be included the oversight of these church property matters. 1913, pp. 248, 249.

On recommendation of the Executive Committee the following was adopted:

That state conferences and home missionary organizations be urged to continue their efforts to guard church property from alienation, and that the Congregational Home Missionary Society be asked to consider afresh whether arrangements cannot be made by which sums paid from its treasury in aid of a church shall be returned to denominational uses from the proceeds of the property of that church if it becomes extinct or changes its denominational relationship. 1915, p. 29.

The following act of the Legislature of Iowa is quoted by the commission on organization. 1919, p. 186.

"When a local religious society shall have ceased to support a minister or leader or regular services and work for two years or more, or as defined by the rules of any incorporated state, diocesan or district society with which it has been connected, it shall be deemed extinct, and its property may be taken charge of and controlled by such state or similar socity of that denomination with which it has been connected."

It will be noted that the Iowa action is a general law covering all denominations. In Michigan and Indiana and other states such legislation for Congregational churches has been enacted. A suggestive form is given in Appendix "D." 1919, p. 186.

Appendix "D" is as follows, as recommended by the Council:

"A Bill for an Act concerning the vesting of the title to real property belonging to Congregational churches which are or shall become extinct, and declaring an emergency.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of   , That all property, both real and personal, belonging to or held in trust for any Congregational religious society in the State of   that has or shall become extinct shall vest in and become property of the Congregational Conference of   and its successors and assigns: Provided, That nothing herein shall affect the title to any Congregational church or parsonage the title of which is held by any of the National Congregational Societies; and, Provided further, That this act shall not affect the reversionary interest of any person or persons in such property, or any valid lien thereon.

Section 2. That any Congregational church or Congregational religious society in this State which has ceased or failed to maintain worship or services according to the usages and customs of the churches of the Congregational Conference of for the space of two (2) consecutive years immediately prior thereto, or whose membership has so diminished in numbers or in financial strength as to render it impossible or impracticable for such church or society to maintain religious worship or services, or to protect its property from exposure to waste and dilapidation or to fulfill the purpose for which it was incorporated, shall be deemed and taken to be extinct.

Section 3. When a Congregational church or Congregational religious society in this State shall become extinct, as provided for in Section 2 of this act, and shall own any property, the Congregational Conference of may file a complaint in the circuit or superior court of the county in which such church or religious society has been theretofore situated setting forth such facts, and may ask that the title to said property be vested in it. Such complaint shall make the Congregational church or the Congregational religious society which has become extinct a party defendant. Summons shall be issued and served, as provided for in other civil actions, and if no person, officer or member of such defendant church or society can be found upon whom service or process can be had, then, upon the filing of a proper affidavit by some person acting for and on behalf of such Conference showing such facts, the clerk on order of the court, if in session, or in vacation without such order, shall cause a notice of the pendency of such action and the term at which it shall stand for trial, to be published for thirty (30) days in some newspaper of general circulation, named by the complainant or its solicitor, printed in the English language and published in the county, or if none be printed or published therein, then in the county in this State nearest thereto in which any such paper may be printed.

Section 4. Upon the hearing of such cause witnesses may be compelled to attend, and depositions taken under the usual regulations of law may be read and the parties may be examined under oath, as in other cases. If upon such hearing the court shall find the material allegations of the complaint to be true, it shall enter a decree vesting the title of all property as described in such complaint which the court may find belongs to or may be held in trust for such Congregational church or such Congregational religious society, in the plaintiff, the Congregational Conference of and its successors and assigns.

Section 5. Whereas an emergency exists for the immediate taking effect of this act, the same shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage." 1919, pp. 213-215.

Proposed form for Reversionary Deed. 1925, pp. 93, 94.

Provisional Committee

(See also Executive Committee.)

That the Provisional Committee be authorized to appoint any committees ordered but not appointed, and that committees so appointed be entered in the Minutes as by the action of the Council. 1895, p. 52.

That this Council recommend to the Provisional Committee of the next Council to relegate, as far as practicable, the transaction of business to the morning sessions, and devote the afternoon and evening sessions to the reading of papers, presentation of reports and discussions thereon. 1886, p. 49.

It was *resolved,* That the Provisional Committee be requested to arrange for the next meeting of the National Council so as to give ample time for the consideration of subjects relating to the pastorate, the fellowship of the churches, and their practical work. 1883, p. 33.

That the Provisional Committee, in arranging for the program for the next Council, consider whether time may not be saved for other and more important matters, now crowded out, by providing for the reference of the various reports to a committee only when topics are presented in the original statements upon which further consideration and action may seem to be needed. 1889, p. 35.

That the Provisional Committee, in planning for the next Council, be instructed so to arrange the program that at least one session of each day be devoted to the presentation of papers on subjects of common interest and to the discussion of the same. 1892, p. 41.

The following resolution was adopted: That the Provisional Committee be directed to include in the printed program the names of all persons who have been regularly appointed to speak before the Council, and that the secretary be requested to send copies of the program to all delegates whose names shall have been sent to him not later than two weeks previous to the meeting of the Council. 1901, p. 37.

Resolved, That it be suggested to the Provisional Committee to give an entire evening in 1895 to the report on city evangelization. 1892, p. 37.

That, until further order, the Provisional Committee be authorized to pay such expenses of committees created by the Council as may be incurred for printing, clerk hire, postage, and stationery, and such other exceptional expenses as said committee may approve. 1889, p. 21.

Committee made trustees of National Council. 1892, p. 36.

It was *voted,* That the Provisional and Publishing Committees be authorized to meet immediately after the close of the session. 1889, p. 41.

It was *resolved,* That the Nominating Committee be asked to nominate, as one of the members of the Provisional Committee, the pastor of the church where the next meeting of the Council is to be held; and also to nominate five members of said committee, including said pastor, but no officer *ex officio* other than the moderator, whom the Council may request the Provisional Committee to appoint, a committee on the program. 1898, p. 29.

It was *voted,* That the Provisional Committee be requested to appoint at its first meeting as a committee on program: Rev. Cyrus Richardson, Rev. Asher Anderson, the pastor of the inviting church, Cornelius D. Wood, and Rev. Frederick A. Noble. 1898, p. 33.

That in view of the great pressure of business crowded into the sessions of the Council, allowing little time for devotional exercises, and less for fellowship, it is the judgment of this body that the time heretofore devoted to its sessions is inadequate, and that the Provisional Committee are hereby requested, in their arrangements for the next National Council, to allow time sufficient for the realization of the best results. 1880, p. 31.

Publishing Committee

Resolved, That the Publishing Committee, increased in number to five members, shall have the charge and oversight of the publishing of the doings of the Council, the compilation and publication of statistics, and the distribution of the same.

Resolved, That if the Publishing Committee find it desirable to issue the annual statistics and lists of ministers for free distribution, one to each church in our fellowship, then, in the succeeding two years, the treasurer may ask for a contribution not exceeding *one half cent* from each member in each of those years for that purpose. 1877, p. 41.

It was *voted,* That the Publishing Committee be directed to inquire into the feasibility of publishing with the Minutes the addresses of all the sessions of the Council and the affiliated societies, ascertaining, if possible, whether the pastors and churches will subscribe in advance for a sufficient number of copies at a price to cover the cost.

The resolution, that the Publishing Committee of the National Council be authorized to provide not less than one thousand reprints of the report of the Industrial Committee as amended by the Council and place the same at the disposal of the Industrial Committee, was approved and referred to the Publishing Committee.

Resolved, That the Publishing Committee be directed to edit and publish the proceedings of this session of the Council. 1907, p. 405.

Quint, Rev. Alonzo H.

Whereas, For the larger part of a generation the Congregational churches of these United States have enjoyed the services of one whose genius for such work and whose painstaking and persevering endeavor well-nigh created those annual statistics of these churches, which they have gradually perfected to an excellence unrivaled by those of any other department of these churches of Christ; therefore,

Resolved, That the National Council gratefully recognizes these long-continued, distinguished, and useful labors of Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, D. D., with an earnest prayer for his continued personal welfare and his continued usefulness in the service of the Master. 1883, p. 19.

Race Relations

(See also International Relations, American Missionary Association and Negroes.)

Voted, In view of the delicate relations between the races throughout the country at this time be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Council that in every community where different races live, that representative interracial committees be appointed whose work it shall be to allay friction, reconcile extremists and to promote the mutual helpfulness of the races; and be it further

Resolved, That in view of the historic position of Congregationalism on the problem of the races that representatives of our denomination in each community be hereby requested and urged to take the initiative in the inauguration of such committees; and it is also

Resolved, That a Committee of five representative men be appointed by the Council to promote the provisions of this resolution. 1921, p. 385.

The National Council again bears its testimony against the spirit of caste and race hatred, and recommends that in all places where people live of different races, nationalities or religions, the people of our Congregational Churches exert their best influence against the spirit of intolerance on account of race, color, nationality or creed. 1923, p. 236.

Report of Commission on Social Service on the Subject. 1923, p. 74.

Report of the Federal Council on co-operation in securing Christian race relations. 1923, p. 83; 1925, p. 179.

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Council that the establishment of permanent peace and good will among nations involves the development of inter-racial understanding, sympathy and mutual respect and that within our own borders we have unique opportunities for creating Christian attitudes in race relations.

We therefore urge upon the churches of the Congregational fellowship the special consideration of local and national problems in race relations, and the study of local conditions for the cultivation of inter-racial co-operation.

We heartily commend to the interest and support of our churches the Commission on Inter-racial Co-operation in the South, and the Federal Council's Commission on Race Relations, and welcome them as valuable aids to the work of our own Inter-racial Commission. 1925, p. 47, 48.

"That, in order to be consistent with our avowed ideals of inter-racial brotherhood, we urge upon our various denominational bodies the Christian principle of not calling meetings in hotels, clubs or other places where, because of racial discriminations, a portion of their membership cannot be received."

In accordance with our American spirit and the historic ideals of Congregationalism, we urge upon our churches the special obligation, in view of conditions in the Orient, that we should demonstrate our Christian attitude toward Orientals in the United States. In this connection we especially urge the creation of public opinion in favor of such revision of our naturalization laws as will make eligibility for naturalization dependent upon demonstrated capacity to fulfil the duties of citizenship worthily rather than, as at present, upon the accident of race.

MEXICANS

In the past few years a large number of Mexicans (probably at least 2,000,000) have crossed the border into the United States and more are coming. They have thus become one of the major groups of foreign-speaking people in the United States. We urge that these strangers within our gates, wherever found, be met in a friendly spirit both by churches and individuals; that they be accorded fair and just treatment by employers; and that their children be given equal educational opportunities with our own. We are the more strongly moved to urge this by the consideration that such Christian treatment cannot but profoundly affect for good the international relations between Mexico and the United States and that the contrary treatment is bound to have the reverse effect.

We urge upon the new Inter-racial Commission the careful study during the next biennium of the proposal that the American Indian be released from Federal trusteeship, which many feel is destroying his initiative, but that any such proposal be studied with especial care for conserving the best interests of aged, indigent and minor Indians. 1927, p. 230.

See also Indian Affairs.

Radio

Appointment of committee. 1927, p. 227.

That the report of the Committee on Broadcasting be approved, and the Secretary of the National Council be instructed to notify the Federal Council of Churches that we urge strengthening the work of the Federal Council and local Federations in connection with Moving Pictures and Broadcasting; and, believing such work can be carried on more efficiently inter-denominationally, that the Congregational Churches will gladly unite with other denominations in raising a proper budget therefor. 1929, p. 208.

Reformation, Protestant

On recommendation of the Executive Committee it was voted:

That all churches of our fellowship be urged to make provision for a suitable observance of the four hundredth anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, October 31, 1917, and that the Commission on Religious and Moral Education be instructed to aid them as it may find feasible. 1915, p. 29.

Address on. 1917, p. 408.

Religious Education

(See also Congregational Education Society.)

Resolved, That we urge upon the notice of our Sunday School and Publishing Society the question whether it be not possible for them to enter upon negotiations with the similar bodies of other denominations with the purpose of inducing the International Sunday School Association to direct their Lesson Committee in the near future to prepare an optional adult course of Bible study suitable for those who have already passed through one or more courses of the uniform series, and if such a course commends itself to the Sunday School and Publishing Society this Council expresses its approbation of such action as liable to prove a wise and efficient measure. 1904, p. 562.

Series of recommendations of the Committee on Religious Education were approved. 1910, pp. 293, 294.

Memorials from state conferences relative to religious education. 1910, pp. 328-331.

Comprehensive report on a program of religious instruction and training in the local church. 1915, pp. 386-403.

Plan for the Religious Education Boards under the reorganization recommended by the Commission on Missions. 1915, pp. 276-279.

See also reports of the Congregational Education Society.

Reports

Resólved, That the original records and papers of this Council, with the phonographic report, be, after the final adjournment, placed on perpetual deposit with the directors of the American Congregational Association, never to be removed from its library room; and that the directors be authorized to publish a volume of proceedings and debates. 1865, p. 495.

That no report exceed fifteen minutes in the reading, except by order of the Council, though leave to print in full may be allowed. 1895, p. 14.

It was *voted,* That the secretary be requested to send, as soon as practicable, to each delegate of this Council and to the pastor of every Congregational church a brief report of the actions taken and the resolutions passed and the officers and committees appointed. 1904, p. 564.

Report to be sent to the delegates in advance, 1907, p. 423; 1910, p. 392. See also Constitutional Provision.

Retiring Age

Commission on Missions reports conference with missionary officials regarding the desirability of retiring age and pensions. 1917, p. 154.

General approval given to the suggestion of the Commission on Missions that the age of sixty-eight be considered the retiring age, with due flexibility. 1919, pp. 150-152.

Robinson, John

It was *voted,* That a committee be appointed and authorized to prepare a proper inscription for a slab to be placed in the wall of the house of John Robinson in Leyden. 1865, p. 497.

Resolved, That this Council accepts heartily the suggestion of the fitness or propriety of action looking toward the erection, in some suitable place in the city of Leyden, Holland, of a monument to the memory of *John Robinson,* whose name will ever head the list of the pastors of the Congregational churches of the United States; and that a committee of five be appointed to take measures thereto, with full power, when they shall see the way clear, to go forward and erect the same as a tribute from the Congregationalists of the United States. 1877, p. 26.

Report of committee accepted and approved. 1880, pp. 25, 130.

Committee reported and continued. 1883, pp. 18, 70.

Resolution on: 1886, p. 27; 1892, pp. 22, 24, 83.

Whereas, This Council, in 1892, approved of the appropriation of the balance of the John Robinson Memorial Fund (Leyden) towards the erection of the proposed Robinson Memorial Church at Gainsborough, England, to which also other sums have been given on the recommendation of the Council; and *whereas,* it is understood that the laying of the corner stone of this church is to take place in the coming summer, at which the attendance of American brethren is warmly desired; and *whereas,* the Clapham Church, London, under the pastoral care of Rev. J. Guiness Rogers, expects to observe its two hundred and fiftieth anniversary at practically the same date;

Resolved, That it is earnestly hoped by this Council that numbers of American brethren will be present at both these services, and thus draw still closer the ties which bind us and our fatherland. Report on, p. 91. 1895, p. 17.

1. That this Council recognizes the propriety and desirableness of raising and paying by the Congregationalists of the United States of one-third of the amount remaining unpaid on the memorial church, said one-third being the sum of one thousand pounds sterling.

2. That a committee be appointed by this Council to secure said funds, with power to act in such manner as may seem to the members thereof best adapted to the end in view; but with the understanding that it is the decided preference of the Council that any plan adopted shall not involve any specific increase of the general call upon the denomination to be made for its usual purposes.

3. That the payment by the Congregationalists of the United States, through said committee, of said one thousand pounds be conditioned upon the raising, from other sources, and the payment of the balance of two thousand pounds. 1898, pp. 17, 32, 307.

We recommend that this Council be represented by a delegate at the Tercentenary celebration of the church in Gainsborough in 1902, and, in view of the fact that a debt of one thousand pounds is still resting on the church, that we renew the indorsement of this church with a request for aid from the American churches. Later Rev. George R. W. Scott, of Massachusetts, was appointed. 1901, pp. 19, 34, 99.

Romanism

That a committee consisting of five clergymen and an equal number of laymen be appointed to act in concert with other committees similarly appointed by other evangelical denominations, for the purpose of giving expression to our desire for more outward fellowship and more vigorous co-operation for the defense of Protestant Christianity against the encroachments of Roman Catholicism and infidelity in our land. 1865, p. 479.

Whereas, The authorities of the Roman Catholic Church are making every effort to remove the children of Roman Catholic parents from our public schools and locate them in parochial schools, are, in fact, establishing everywhere large parochial schools which threaten to undermine our public school system, and are demanding what they are pleased to call their share of the public funds for the support of parochial schools; therefore,

Resolved, That we will resist firmly and constantly every such effort on the part of the Roman Catholic hierarchy to overturn one of our fundamental institutions.

Resolved, That, regarding the common public schools as the agency best calculated to unify and make homogeneous the various nationalities that make up our diverse population, we look upon the establishment of parochial schools where the children of foreigners are instructed by their teachers and priests as a just cause of apprehension and a menace to the best interests of our country.

Resolved, That to the last we will withstand the effort to appropriate the public school funds to sectarian purposes, and will insist upon free common school education for the whole American people. 1889, p. 44.

Roosevelt, President

Message to, on inauguration. 1901, pp. 15, 19.

TO THEODORE ROOSEVELT, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:—

The National Council of Congregational Churches of the United States, now assembled in triennial session at Portland, Maine, bow with you in profound sorrow over the tragic death of our late President. With you and all other true patriots we recognize his great personal merit, and the distinguished service he rendered to the nation; but while mourning for the dead, we may not forget the living. Called, as you have been by this strange providence, to the responsibilities and duties of the exalted position you now occupy, we hasten to assure you of our hearty sympathy in the difficult tasks you have to perform, and of our unquestioning confidence in the integrity of your purpose, in the loftiness of your aims, and in your ability, under the guidance of God, to meet successfully the high demands of your great office. Many of the members of this Council have watched your career with an increasing pride; and as they have noted how loyal you have been to lofty ideals, and how true and unfaltering in situations the most trying, and how your patriotism has been characterized, not alone by an intense earnestness, but by intelligence and breadth, they have been constrained to feel that you were born to be a leader at a time when wise and courageous leadership seems so essential to the welfare and substantial progress of the Republic. We invoke God's choicest blessings upon you, and we promise to do our best to hold up your hands, and our best, also, to create a public opinion which will hold up your hands, in every attempt you may make, in every measure you may urge, in every policy you may adopt, which has promise in it of advancing this great people, over whose destiny you now preside, in knowledge, in righteousness, in the true appreciation and the right use of liberty, and in all the elements and qualities which bring the national aspirations more and more into line with the manifest purposes of Him whose kingdom ruleth over all. 1901, pp. 15, 19.

Rules, Standing

(See also Provisions of Constitution and By-Laws.)

Codified from the actions of previous National Councils in 1927. 1927, p. 217.

As amended in 1929. 1929, p. 161 following. (See By-Laws for Text.)

Rural Life

A concern of the Home Missionary Society. 1913, p. 115.

Problem referred to the Committee on Religious Education. 1913, p. 388.

The country church, recommended as one of the objectives of active church work by the Commission on Social Service, to the effect

That special emphasis be placed on the rural church — 1. Through the Agricultural Colleges. 2. Through State and local Conferences and Associations. 1915, p. 40.

Rural conditions, as reported by the Commission on Social Service. 1923, p. 73.

Appointment of Director of Rural Work by the Home Missionary Society. 1921, p. 197.

Rural Life Institute. 1923, p. 167.

The survey of country church and agricultural life problems, referred to the Social Service Commission. 1923, p. 217.

Comprehensive report on the church and rural life. 1925, pp. 152-155.

Home Missionary Work in the Town and Country Regions. 1927, p. 111.

Sabbath, The

Whereas, Our Pilgrim Fathers regarded the strict observance of the Sabbath as a duty they owed to God, and also as indispensable to the formation of a free Christian republic; and

Whereas, The desecration of the Sabbath is proverbial, both by the nation and by individuals, and thereby one of the fundamental principles on which our fathers reared this mighty nation is greatly imperiled, and the God who ordained the Sabbath dishonored; therefore,

Resolved, That we as a Council greatly deplore the general desecration of the Sabbath in our beloved land, and feel called upon to use all proper efforts, in the pulpit and by the pew, by prayer, and if necessary by our petitions to Congress, to restore to the nation the sanctity of the Christian Sabbath, once so dear to our fathers. 1865, p. 359.

Impressed with the intimate connection between the proper observance of the Christian Sabbath and the maintenance of sound morals and piety in our land, the National Council do hereby express their sense of the need of renewed efforts to guard the day against the frequent encroachments of secular labor and pleasure-seeking recreations. Amidst the multiplied activities and enlarging enterprises which engross the minds and consume the strength of our citizens, the rest of the Sabbath is indispensable to the continuance of health, virtue, and Christian principle in this nation. To this end the Council recommend that the claims of the Lord's Day as a season of rest from earthly toil, to be hallowed by religious culture and worship, be presented and urged by the press and the pulpit, and that Christian laymen endeavor by personal persuasion and example to sanction and enforce this sentiment. 1871, p. 58.

Memorials on Sabbath Observance, from Grand River (Ohio) Conference and Kansas General Association adopted. 1877, pp. 19, 27.

Resolved, That we view with deep concern the widely prevailing, if not increasing, desecration of the Lord's Day for purposes of business and of pleasure; that we earnestly urge that all Christian men should discountenance all such desecration by word and example; and that strenuous efforts should be made to secure such legislation by Congress and in the several states as may tend to restore and maintain the appropriate keeping of this day of rest and worship. 1886, p. 53.

It was *resolved* (1), That this Council rejoices in the rising tide of interest in the matter of a better observance of the Lord's Day, and in the multiplication of state and local organizations for the promotion of this object.

Resolved (2), That we use our utmost endeavors to secure such national legislation as shall prevent all unnecessary labor in connection with the United States mail and military service and interstate commerce on the Lord's Day. 1889, p. 36.

Resolution against opening of the Columbian Exposition on the Sabbath. 1892, p. 35.

1. That the discussion of the question in its various phases be kept up in our religious press and our religious gatherings, and participated in by men of wisdom and spiritual discernment.

2. That our ministers be urged to preach to their people from time to time upon the obligations and privileges of the Lord's Day, to the end that Christian sentiments and Christian conscience may be toned up among us, and that the Sabbath, already recognized by law, may be utilized in still greater measure for humanitarian and spiritual purposes.

3. That we express our approval of the action of the Executive Committee of the Congregational Home Missionary Society, disapproving of the use of Sunday railway trains, except in cases of emergency, by the missionaries of that society; and we

furthermore suggest that all our ministers and people be urged to adopt a similar course.

4. That both as Christians and as patriots we express our hearty sympathy and approval of the movement inaugurated in New York and other large cities of the land, for the enforcement of laws tending to secure to the people a Sabbath of peace and good order. 1895, pp. 41, 142.

1. We recommend that the memorial as to the designation of a particular Sunday in the year for the consideration of the matter of Sabbath observance be referred to the churches and the local bodies of churches.

2. We reaffirm, with increased conviction of the importance of the issues involved, the deliverances made from time to time upon the subject, at successive sessions of the National Council, and urge upon all pastors and churches, the exercise and diligent cultivation of a deepened conviction of the sacredness of the Lord's Day, and a Christian manner of living that shall accord therewith. 1898, p. 39.

Whereas, It is expected that at the meeting of the American General Passenger Agents' Association, to be held at Old Point Comfort, Virginia, October 18, a proposition will be made advocating the total abandonment of Sunday excursions throughout the United States, therefore,

Resolved, That the moderator of the National Council send to the secretary of the General Passenger Agents' Association a message heartily advocating and urging the adoption of said proposition.

The following was adopted:

Resolved, That this National Council, with loyalty to that which is best and most distinctive in the history of the Pilgrim faith, declares its unswerving opposition to increasing Sabbath desecration, and calls upon all our churches to earnestly and vigilantly resist the insidious, or open and flagrant, tendency to pervert the Sabbath to commercial uses and to mere pleasurable and sensual debasement. 1907, p. 427.

Resolved, That the National Council of Congregational Churches assembled in Kansas City, October, 1913, calls upon the churches of its order to put new emphasis in preaching and personal example upon the importance and sanctity of the Sabbath and to counteract in every way possible the customs and influences that are rapidly tending to secularize the day and rob it of its holy opportunities for rest, worship, and the reverent recognition of God's beneficent purpose for man's highest temporal and eternal good. 1913, pp. 404, 405.

Resolved, That the National Council of Congregational Churches at Grand Rapids recognizes the work of the Lord's Day League in the enactment of proper Sunday laws in the several states, and renews its approval of the Lord's Day Alliance. We request our people to co-operate with it to secure and enforce the six day working week and to promote observance of the moral and religious ends of Sunday. 1919, p. 41.

Recognizing the Christian Sabbath as vital to the welfare of churches, communities, and the nation, and recognizing also the menace of a commercialized Sabbath, the National Council of Congregational Churches lays upon the heart of the American people the duty of observance of the Lord's Day, and directs the attention of their people to the perils of organized and commercialized Sabbath desecration. 1923, p. 233.

Salaries of Pastors

Table by states and districts. 1925, p. 107; 1927, p. 34.

Report from the Laymen's Breakfast was presented by Mr. Frank Kimball of Illinois, and upon recommendation the following resolutions were adopted:

Be it Resolved, That this assembly of Congregational laymen meeting with the National Council send through the Council office a letter to every church asking it to give immediate attention to the matter of the increase of its pastor's salary and to report through the State Superintendent or State Secretary of its State the exact status of the salary question in that church.

Be it Resolved, That we further recommend the creation and election by the National Council at this time of a commission of nine laymen to be known as the Commission on the Status of the Ministry, who shall take in hand the matter of securing from the churches such increase of salary for their ministers as shall meet the present emergency, urging that such increase shall not be less than 25 per cent in excess of pre-war salaries. 1919, pp. 23, 24.

Report of Laymen's Commission on Status of the Ministry. 1921, p. 32.

See also *Laymen.*

Schools

(See also Bible.)

Telegram to President Harding favoring the Towner-Sterling Education Bill. 1921, pp. 386, 387.

Science and Religion

Resolved, That we pledge ourselves to the conservation of the spiritual values embodied in the time-honored statements of Christian truth, but believe that God makes Himself increasingly known through the patient investigations of modern scholars;

We declare our conviction that there is and can be no conflict between science and religion. We deplore any attempt of the state or federal governments to interfere with the teaching of widely accepted scientific theories, and encourage all reverent students in their search for the truth in whatever field, assuring them that we welcome all light that God can give us, and commend to our ministers and people the preaching and acceptance of a gospel consistent with modern scholarship. 1925, p. 47.

Secretary, General

But the most important change that is called for denominationally is a change in the secretaryship. It has become in our usage mainly an editorial office. Its importance and efficiency as now conducted must not be overlooked, but the present movement in Congregationalism seems to demand an expansion of the office. The secretary of the National Council should be our recognized leader in promoting the great issues of the denomination. The editorial work should go on under his general direction, or under an Editorial Secretary, but his work should be that of an ''organizer of our national forces for world-wide enterprise.'' It seems to your committee better to have a salaried secretary than a salaried moderator. We can have the services of a great moderator at a compartively slight outlay; a secretary of national size with the capacity of constructive leadership of the churches must have an adequate salary and liberal expense account. 1910, p. 284.

. . . .

It further approves of a broader interpretation of the office of secretary, which shall provide not merely for the existing editorial and office functions, but include the active management of such interests as are placed in charge of the Council and not otherwise provided for, and the general function of leadership among the churches, counseling with conferences and associations, and promoting the great issues which our churches are working out. 1910, p. 286.

From the report of the Committee on Polity, which led to the reorganization of 1913 at Kansas City. 1910, pp. 284, 286.

The following action was also taken: Upon motion it was voted that the Commission of Nineteen be and hereby is authorized to select and nominate a general secretary to the Provisional Committee. 1910, p. 389.

"*Resolved,* That the Council hereby declares in favor of the enlarged conception of the secretaryship, laying upon that office added advisory and administrative service; and the Commission of Nineteen is hereby authorized to select and nominate a general secretary to the Provisional Committee." 1913, p. 332.

The aim of the Commission of Nineteen regarding the secretaryship has been that of increasing its helpfulness. Its conception of the office is that of brotherly co-operation and acquaintance with the common problems of denominational life among us. While the purpose of the Commission regarding the secretaryship has not changed, there has evidently been misunderstanding, in some of our churches, as to just what it is that the Commission has in mind regarding this office, and this section of the report has been rewritten in the interest of greater definiteness and the avoidance of possible misapprehension.

At its meeting in Boston in October, 1910, the Council adopted resolutions "in favor of the enlarged conception of the secretaryship, laying upon that office added advisory and administrative service," and authorized the Commission of Nineteen "to select and nominate a general secretary to the Provisional Committee." In discharge of this duty the Commission has given continuous attention to the secretaryship. A report was made to the churches setting forth at some length the Commission's conception of the expanded office and its chief duties. This report called out considerable discussion, which has received the earnest consideration of the Commission. The Commission is confident that the sentiment of our churches and ministers is in favor of some enlargement of the duties of the secretary, and it is in entire accord with the general desire that the office, as expanded, be so defined and its service so regulated as to cause no impairment of our local autonomy.

The enlargement of the duties of the secretary now proposed is the direct consequence of the enlargement of the duties of the Council whose representative he is. Its aim is to secure the more effective performance of the tasks to which the Council has set itself in its endeavors to achieve a "more efficient Congregationalism". The present duties of the secretary must, of course, be maintained in their existing high state of efficiency. In three specific directions, however, the Commission believes that the service of the secretary in carrying on the work of the Council may be wisely enlarged.

First, as Secretary of the Commission on Missions, he would serve it and through it the churches in the two great tasks immediately confronting them: (1) the work of co-ordinating and readjusting our missionary activities; and (2) the more efficient financing of those activities, through the Apportionment Plan and other plans which may be devised.

Second, as one widely acquainted with the interests of the churches, the secretary would be in a position, when invited, to give helpful advice in their problems and to make suggestions looking toward their greater efficiency. In the judgment of the Commission, no larger service can be rendered by the Council in our portion of the kingdom of God than that of assisting local churches towards a more vigorous and effective life. In this work, as far as permitted by the churches themselves, the secretary would be the representative of the Council. This service—the extent of which can only be determined by experiment—may ultimately demand appointment, by the National Council, of a committee, selected from those expert in various departments of church activities, with whose members the secretary could advise as to the problems in which their judgment could be of aid, and in which his counsel could, therefore, have the added weight that comes from united consideration.

Third, to enlarge his acquaintance with the churches and their needs, the secretary should, as far as possible, respond to invitations to be present at state conferences and other gatherings of the churches. Like the moderator, he may also represent the Congregational churches in interdenominational relations—a matter of increasing importance in these days when co-operation between Christians of various names is constantly coming into greater recognition. 1913, pp. 337-339.

(See also By-law IV on the Duties of the Secretary.)

Rev. Hubert C. Herring, New York, was nominated for General Secretary, and after the seconding of the nomination by Rev. William E. Barton, Illinois, Rev. Cornelius H. Patton, Massachusetts, Rev. Pearse Pinch, South Dakota, he was elected and made response to the Council. 1913, p. 395.

Report of the Executive Committee on the death of Secretary Herring. 1921, p. 17.

Memorial address by Rev. Charles F. Carter, 1921, pp. 350-358.

Secretary ad interim, Rev. Edward D. Eaton, D. D., 1921, p. 17.

Voted, That the Council express its appreciation of the self-sacrificing labor and wise counsel of Dr. Edward D. Eaton in serving as Secretary *ad interim.* 1921, p. 375.

A motion to proceed to the election of Secretary was amended by making the election of Secretary the order of the day for 5:00 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, and carried. Announcement was made that the Nominating Committee would hold a hearing on the matter on Saturday at 12:30 o'clock. 1921, p. 363.

At five o'clock the special order for the election of Secretary being taken up,

It was voted that a two-thirds vote of those present and voting be necessary for a choice.

On ballot Rev. Chas. E. Burton received 226 of the 331 votes cast and on motion of Rev. Carl S. Patton, the election was made unanimous.

Prayer was offered by Rev. F. E. Emrich of Massachusetts. 1921, p. 379.

Secretary, Associate

Instituted by the Executive Committee:

The office force has been somewhat re-cast, Dr. Fagley bringing resourceful qualities to the position of Associate Secretary, dividing his time between this position and that of the Secretary of the Commission on Evangelism, but this addition has not necessitated any considerable increase in the office expense. 1923, p. 14.

On recommendation of the Executive Committee, it was

Voted, To recommend to the Council that the Executive Committee be empowered to elect an Associate Secretary. 1925, p. 22.

Secret Societies

Resolved, That as our Lord Jesus Christ always spoke openly and said nothing in secret, and is alone entitled to the unqualified faith of his followers, this Council hereby utters its solemn testimony against all secret associations which bind their members by extrajudicial oaths or obligations. 1865, p. 405.

Resolved, That, with loyalty to the family and the state, the Christian's first social obligations are to the Church; and that it is inconsistent for any Christian to become a member of any organization, secret or social, into which he cannot consistently take his Saviour; and that no Christian can consistently allow his connection with any fraternal organization, secret or social, to interfere with his obligations to his church; and that the multiplication of social clubs and fraternities is one of the most subtle temptations against the spiritual life of the young men of our churches.

Resolved, That, in view of the multiplicity of these organizations and their influence on the churches, there be appointed a committee to report at the next meeting of the Council on the further duty of the churches respecting them. 1895, p. 34.

Resolved, That, while we gratefully recognize the fraternal and philanthropic purpose of many of these organizations, we deem it the privilege and the duty of the churches to meet, in more generous and Christian ways, the social needs of the neighborhoods in which they are organized, to the end that whatever tends to lower the social and moral tone of the community may be met and supplanted by the higher social service and warmer Christian fellowship of the church of God. 1898, p. 30.

Social Ideals, Statement of

As adopted on recommendation of the Commission on Social Service. 1925, pp. 51-53.

Supplemental statement on international ideals. 1927, p. 229.

Social Service

(See also Social Ideals, Industrial Committee, Capital and Labor, etc.)

Addresses on the subject. 1907, pp. 1, 86, 102, 133; 1910, p. 52; 1915, p. 144; 1919, p. 95; 1923, p. 72; 1925, pp. 79, 149.

Standing Committee on Industry and Congregational Brotherhood discontinued and Commission on Social Service erected. 1913, p. 396.

Recommendations of the Commission on Social Service were adopted as follows:

1. That the special program and objective of the Social Service Commission be given wider publicity and a larger place in our denominational program.

2. That the activities of this Commission as outlined in this report be continued, and that our churches in their local work, as well as their fellowship, be more completely enlisted in the effort to make the program for social reconstruction effective.

3. That the churches adopt the minimum program as outlined in report:

1. Men's Work
2. Social Service
3. Industry
4. Organized Charity
5. Country Church
6. Social Purity

4. That special emphasis be placed on the rural church—

1. Through the Agricultural Colleges. 2. Through State and local Conferences and Associations. 1915, pp. 39, 40.

Voted, That the authority given by the Council at Kansas City in 1913 to the Commission on Social Service regarding the appointment and salary of a Secretary to the Commission be continued till the meeting of the Council in 1917; and

That at that Council this Secretary, if the Council shall then decide to continue the office, shall be elected by the Council on nomination of the Nominating Committee. 1915, p. 45.

Secretarial service in Social Service committed to the Education Boards. 1915, p. 277.

On report of the Social Service Commission declarations of principles were adopted. 1919, pp. 33-36.

Recommendations of the Social Service Commission were adopted as follows:

Inasmuch as the social and industrial conditions of the country constitute a most imperative problem before us; and inasmuch as a far reaching program of education is necessary among the ministers and laymen of our churches; it is recommended

That the National Council guarantee a financial support for its Social Service Commission for the work of conference and propaganda.

That four meetings a year be held, and that if possible the findings of the conferences be published.

That an appropriation of not less than $2,000 a year is needed to do this work. 1919, pp. 37, 38.

On motion of Rev. Chas. F. Carter, statement in regard to Social and Industrial Questions was adopted. 1921, pp. 393, 394.

Society, Ecclesiastical

Resolved, That a special committee of seven members be appointed to inquire into the facts, and to report to the next National Council whether the best interests of Congregationalism do not require the disuse of the society (or parish) system, in which the ministry are made largely dependent for their temporal support upon the pecuniary subscriptions of those who lack vital sympathy with practical godliness; and whether it be not the duty of the *churches,* as such, to assume the responsibility of seeing that those who labor in the gospel live of the gospel. 1874, p. 21.

Resolved (1), That this Council heartily commends the paper submitted by the committee on the parish system to the careful and earnest consideration of the churches.

Resolved (2), That, while recognizing the advantages which our churches and congregations have derived from the so-called parish system, as it has existed among us, we feel bound most earnestly to advise the churches to guard against any tendency which may exist to subordinate the interests of truth and religion to the control of the parish. The church should exercise its undoubted right to take the lead in the selection of a pastor, and also to direct its public and social religious services. 1877, p. 49.

Report of committee of seven. For full text of the paper on the "Parish System," by the committee of seven, see pp. 189-276. 1877, p. 48.

Resolved, That this National Council, in response to an overture of inquiry whether "the best interests of Congregationalism do not require the disuse of the society system," place on record its conviction:

1. That fidelity to the divine law, establishing the church and prescribing its work, and consistency with the solemnly avowed aim of the church and the dictates of practical wisdom, alike require that the Christian Church, of whatever denomination, retain in its own hands the entire responsibility and control of its own affairs.

2. That compliance on the part of the church with this requirement is impossible under the present system. 1880, pp. 14, 15, 61-76.

Resolved (1), That while the society system as heretofore exemplified in its practical workings may have disclosed defects, yet we believe they are not inherent in the system, but that they may be remedied or prevented.

2. That societies thus organized to aid the church in secular affairs, but not controlling her spiritual interests or arrangements, may be important and valuable aids in building up the kingdom of God. 1880, p. 69.

Southern Congregationalists

The committee to which was referred a memorial from the Second Southern Congregational Congress to the National Council, after an extended conference with representatives of the several departments of Congregational work in the southland, would present the following:

Resolved, That the National Council of Congregational Churches expresses its joy in the present promise of Congregationalism in the South, and most heartily endorses the forward movements in Congregational work in that section. 1907, p. 407.

Report of deputation to the South. 1917, pp. 160-203.

State Organization

(See also Benevolent Societies, Church Extension and Home Missions.)

It was *voted,* That a committee of five be appointed to consider the memorial of the General Association of the Congregational Churches of Massachusetts regarding the relations of the state home missionary bodies and the national societies, to report at this meeting. 1904, p. 532.

In view of the unanimous agreement of the Executive Committee of the Congregational Home Missionary Society and the representatives of the State Auxiliaries to take up together in annual conference all matters of mutual interest, your Committee recommend that no action be taken on the Memorial of the Massachusetts General Association. 1904, p. 532.

Survey of development which led to the organized state conference by Secretary Anderson. 1907, pp. 228-233.

Report of the Committee on Polity regarding state organization. 1907, pp. 342-347.

On recommendation of the Committee on Polity the following was approved:

That the state organizations become legally incorporated bodies; and that under a general superintendent and such boards as they may create, and acting in co-operation with committees of local associations and churches, they provide for and direct the extension of church work, the planting of churches, the mutual oversight and care of all self-sustaining as well as missionary churches, and other missionary and church activities, to the end that closer union may insure greater efficiency without curtailing local independence. 1907, p. 346.

Report of the Committee on Polity on the development of the incorporated state. 1910, pp. 279-283.

The following was adopted on recommendation of the Commission on Organization:

That, in harmony with the provision of the 2d recommendation, the Executive Committee be requested to submit to each State Conference the proposal that by formal vote it signify its desire to conduct the portion of its activities which bears on missions as a part of the entire denominational missionary structure in which the Commission on Missions shall be recognized as a co-ordinating agency. 1919, p. 43.

On recommendation of the Executive Committee the following was voted:

"That recommendation be made to State Conferences and District Associations that their voting membership be composed only of delegates from the constituent churches, one of whom shall be their pastor unless the church otherwise determines." 1925, p. 42.

Report of the Committee of Twelve on the matter of the relation of state and national organizations. 1925, pp. 63. 64.

Plan for nomination of representatives of the states on the national boards. 1929, pp. 210, 211.

Stewardship

Report of the Commission on Missions on Stewardship. 1917, p. 204.

Resolved, Therefore, that we urge our churches henceforth to give this fundamental principle of Christian Stewardship the chief place and emphasis in their plans for benevolence. 1917, p. 204.

From the plan for the Congregational World Movement, which provided the following:

A Campaign of Stewardship seeking the commitment of Congregational Christians to the principle and practice of the trusteeship of all we are and have. 1919, p. 29.

Sunday Schools

(See also Religious Education, etc.)

That this Council recognize with thankfulness the blessing of God upon the instruction and influence of Sabbath schools, and commend this instrumentality to the deeper interest and more earnest prayers of the churches. 1865, p. 495.

Paper on Sunday School work, by Rev. H. Clay Trumbull. Report of committee adopted.

1. That the Sabbath school is not an organization independent of the church, but is one form of church service and

2. We would emphasize the importance of a thorough indoctrinating and training of both teachers and scholars in the great principles of religion, and in the doctrines and polity of our churches.

3. We heartily commend to the churches, also, the enlarged and increasingly successful Sabbath school work of our American Home Missionary Society, both in the Sabbath schools already established, interesting and enlisting them in the mission-

ary Sabbath school work, and also on the frontier under the agencies now prosperously working under this society; and we give them our hearty sympathy, support, and prayers to cheer them on to still greater success. 1877, pp. 59, 179.

Memorials from the General Association of Massachusetts and the General Convention of Wisconsin. In full, p. 154. 1883, pp. 17, 18.

A national committee on Sunday School work appointed. 1883, p. 31.

Report of committee of 1883. Recommendations adopted. Report in full, p. 100. 1886, p. 32.

As to temperance instruction in Sunday Schools, we recommend the reference of the plan for temperance instruction in the Sunday Schools to the individual Sunday Schools of our churches for such action as may seem to them expedient. 1898, p. 39.

The following committee were appointed to secure, in connection with the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society, better results in Sunday School instruction: Frank K. Sanders, of Connecticut; Rev. James A. Blaisdell, of Michigan; Henry A. King, of Massachusetts; Rev. Glenn A. Taylor, of Iowa; Samuel T. Dutton, of New York; Rev. Rockwell H. Potter, of Connecticut; George F. West, of Maine. 1901, p. 43.

See reports of The Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society and of the Congregational Education Society.

Systematic Benevolence

(See also Benevolent Societies and Commission on Missions.)

Whereas, Systematic giving is indispensable to the full development of the Christian grace of liberality, and can alone furnish a reliable basis for the plans and operations of our benevolent societies, and no other system has been demonstrated to be so efficient as that of weekly offerings: therefore, we earnestly recommend that plan to individuals and to all the churches represented by this body. 1874, p. 30.

Report on Systematic Giving, Vol. 1883, p. 163.

Resolved, That a committee on systematic giving be chosen, to report in 1886. 1883, p. 23.

Resolved, That a standing committee of three on systematic beneficence be appointed to confer, at their discretion, with state bodies of Congregational churches and with the national Congregational missionary societies, and, by such other means as seem to them expedient, to endeavor to increase and promote the wise distribution of the offerings of our denomination for missionary purposes; and that their necessary expenses, when approved by the Provisional Committee, be paid by the treasurer of the Council, provided that the expenses of the committee shall never exceed the amount of $100 per annum. 1886, pp. 39, 48, 343.

Report of committee accepted. 1889, p. 32. Report on, p. 282.

Resolved, That this Council suggest and urge that this subject of proportional giving be made a special order of the day for consideration in every local association and conference at the next meeting; and that such action be taken as may secure this year a contribution from every church to each one of our several national benevolent societies; and, so far as possible, something from every individual member proportionate to his ability.

The chairman of the committee was requested to put the substance of the report into a leaflet for distribution. Report on, p. 113. 1892, p. 22.

The following recommendation of the Commission on Missions was approved:

The Commission on Missions desires to commend the increasing number of churches which are remitting the benevolent funds every month. We unanimously suggest to the National Council that it recommend to the churches the adoption of this custom, or the remittance of all benevolent funds at least quarterly, and that this policy be recommended to the state conferences and to the Promotional Council for such reinforcement as they are able to give. 1927, p. 196.

Temperance

(See also Prohibition.)

That a special committee be appointed, who shall consider and report to this Council what deliverance, if any, it ought to make on the subject of temperance. 1865, p. 182.

That the Council declares that no action that has been taken by this body is to be taken as adverse to any prohibitory action on the subject of temperance. 1865, p. 495.

Memorial from the General Convention of Wisconsin, asking "that the National Council consider the expediency of making formal petition to Congress so to frame its legislation as to discountenance and diminish, so far as may be possible, the manufacture, importation, and use of spiritous liquors."

Resolved, That this Council deeply feels the need of renewed and more vigorous Christian effort to stay the woes of intemperance in this land, and exhorts all Congregational ministers and churches to give this a prominent place in all their plans and labors in the work of reform. 1871, p. 59.

Resolved, That we reaffirm our conviction that the use and sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and the intemperance to which these lead, are serious obstacles to the progress of a true Christianity, as well as injurious to every other interest of society; and we urge upon our churches and ministers renewed activity in the use of such agencies as are best adapted to discourage drinking habits, and remove as far as possible the external temptations which foster them. 1877, p. 51.

Whereas, Intemperance in the use of intoxicating drinks and of various stimulants and narcotics is not only one of the greatest present and threatening curses of our country, but one of the greatest hindrances to the growth of vital religion and the conversion of souls; and,

Whereas, The most efficient and abiding measures for counteracting this evil must be those which are in nature educational, and which affect heart and life by laying hold of the individual conscience; and,

Whereas, The churches of the living God are themselves the direct and divinely appointed agencies for all such work, having an assurance of explicit commission, of an ever present power to help, and of a promise of success which is possible to no others; therefore

Resolved, That the National Council of Congregational Churches approves of such special efforts by the churches against this special form of sin as are congenial with their traditional Scriptural organization and spirit; and

Resolved, That in the opinion of the Council the signs of the times and the exigencies of Christ's kingdom require that the churches, though acting in their own appropriate methods, be found in the front rank of the leaders in this particular and vital contest for righteousness, and that the Council hereby earnestly invites all the churches of our Congregational communion to such forms of special and increased activity against intemperance, especially among the young, as each shall find suitable within its own field, under the direction of the divine Spirit, in answer to prayer. 1883, p. 22.

Resolved (1), That the National Council of Congregational Churches, recognizing the unfinished condition of the great conflict with intemperance, and rejoicing in the evidence of widening interest in the final triumph of temperance principles and the multiplying of helpful contestants, does again, as in former sessions, declare cordial sympathy with all workers seeking by

Christian methods to lessen the evils and destroy the practice of using intoxicating liquors as a beverage; and that, since no conflict is of greater concern to the welfare and perpetuity of our institutions, we recommend to all our pastors and churches the profoundest interest and co-operation in every legitimate method in operation, and to be set in operation, to secure this end.

Resolved (2), That we urge that, publicly and privately, efforts to lessen the number of, and bring to an end, the saloons and tippling houses in every community be encouraged; that prayer be made unto God without ceasing for the removal of this greatest curse from our land; that public meetings be held frequently in our churches, and sermons be delivered by our ministers for the increased agitation of this subject and the larger education of the public conscience, that at length the total suppression of the liquor traffic may be secured throughout the land; that the relation of this evil to all other destructive influence as revealed in our criminal courts be made plain to all; that the gathering of trustworthy statistics concerning the whole temperance question under the direction of the national government be recommended; and that unity be sought among all our workers for the purifying of our social drinking customs.

Resolved (3), That with all great bodies of Christian believers we attest our sense of the magnitude of the strife with this gigantic sin, the appalling evils and immense destruction attending it, and the appealing necessity of a speedy victory. 1886, p. 28.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed whose duty it shall be to prepare and present to the Congress of the United States a memorial asking the appointment of a commission to gather and present facts and statistics concerning the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks and the effects of their use.

Resolved, That we instruct this committee to confer with other ecclesiastical bodies with a view to securing joint action with them in presenting such memorial. 1886, p. 47.

That we commend to the churches the work of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and of all other organizations which are seeking by Christian methods to banish from the land the awful curse of intemperance. 1880, p. 32.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union having presented to the National Council a statement of its work in the promotion of temperance, in which nothing is expressed concerning the influence of an extension of suffrage to woman, nor concerning the worth of a special political party in the interest of temperance, the Council makes no utterance concerning these matters,—

Resolved, That this Council gives its cordial indorsement of the work of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in its various efforts to increase and strengthen the public sentiment against the evil of intemperance; in its emphasis of the fact that it is the duty of women to be earnest and decided in their advocacy of the virtue of temperance, that so closely touches the home and social life; in its successful efforts in behalf of temperance education in the common and Sunday Schools; in its labors in behalf of social purity and the purity of personal life in men and women; and in its affirmation of the truth that unity of temperance work is secured through Christian temperance union 1886, p. 47.

Resolved (1), That the National Council of Congregational Churches hereby declares its unqualified condemnation of this evil and its sympathy with legitimate efforts for its removal, and commends to churches and all Christian workers the use of wise measures to secure as far as possible universal personal abstinence from all intoxicating drinks as a beverage.

Resolved (2), That this Council commends the employment of suitable means and methods to promote the education of the young in the principles of temperance and in a knowledge of the evils of the use of intoxicants; and that it expresses its sympathy with the Christian women of our land in their efforts to secure the teaching necessary to attain this end, and to provide for the purity of the home and the suppression of the evils of intemperance.

Resolved (3), That the saloon is so great a menace to the peace of society, to the good order and welfare of the communities in which it exists, and so great a hindrance to the advance of the cause of our divine Master as to demand the employment of the wisest and most efficient legitimate means for its removal, and that we call upon our churches and other bodies of Christians to unite in prayer to God for wisdom and divine guidance in efforts for removing this great evil. Memorial to Congress, p. 260. 1889, p. 38.

We affirm, as in the past, our sorrow for the destruction and degradation which come to our land through the vice of intemperance, and extend sympathy and Godspeed to all honest men and women who in any way are seeking to banish the saloon and save men from its temptations.

We, in a special manner, call upon our people to unite with all others in opposing the liquor traffic, and to encourage federated action of churches and Sunday Schools, Christian Endeavor societies, temperance societies, good government clubs, and the like, in a firm and persistent movement for the overthrow of the social and political power of the saloon.

We urge our people, in the present crisis of the temperance reform, in no way, by social habits or form of legislation, to give respectability to the use or sale of intoxicating drinks, and to affirm their conviction that the safety of our young men and the welfare of the state demand total abstinence by the individual and prohibition of the saloon.

Whereas, The London Sunday School Union, the National Women's Christian Temperance Union, the Presbyterian General Assembly, and the fall conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church have recommended the observance of the fourth Sunday in November as Temperance Sunday, we commend to our churches the favorable consideration of this recommendation. Report on, p. 125. 1895, p. 28.

Resolved (1), That this Council reaffirms the declarations of previous Councils in regard to the evils of intemperance and the perils of the liquor traffic. We urge pastors and churches to press the work of temperance education in church, Sunday School, and home; that the subject be given a prominent place, both in the ministrations of the pulpit and in the teaching of the Sunday School, that there may thus be secured and maintained a temperance sentiment and temperance practices in both old and young.

Resolved (2), That we join with other Christian bodies and Christian people all over the land in demanding that the sale of intoxicating liquors be excluded from the Columbian Exhibition; and we express the hope that the managers of the exhibition will not insult the best sentiment of the country, and violate the laws of both the state and the community in which the exhibition is located, by bringing into it the saloon and the beer garden.

Resolved (3), That we express our hearty sympathy with all sincere efforts to circumscribe, limit, and destroy the traffic in strong drink. We regard the results of the traffic as so thoroughly evil that in our view the only attitude for Christian people is that of unqualified and unceasing antagonism. We count the open saloon as the foe of all good, the tempter of youth, the destroyer of men, the corrupter of our political life, and the greatest peril of our common country.

Resolved (4), That we will labor and pray for the speedy coming of the time when all good people shall be as one in their purpose to remove this great curse from our land; and we will be ever looking for and hastening unto the day when we can say of this evil, as we now can say of slavery and other wrongs, "It was once, but is no more."

It was also *resolved,* That it be a recommendation of this Council that churches of our order should use only unfermented wine at the communion of the Lord's Supper. 1892, pp. 30, 86.

In view of the aim of the American Anti-Saloon League to unite all temperance people in practical measures for the suppression of the saloon, and the fact that its methods have commended themselves to other bodies of Christians and to state associations of our own churches;

Voted, That this body co-operate with the American Anti-Saloon League by the appointment of a representative on its National Board of Directors, and also by the appointment, as requested, of a committee of ten to represent this body in the next national convention of the League. 1898, p. 34.

Believing that the saloon is one of the strongest forces of evil now existing in our nation, hindering the progress of Christian work and a constant menace to our Christian civilization:—

Resolved (1), That we again express our unqualified condemnation of it, its work, and all forms and methods by which its power is being exerted to seize upon and destroy the youth of the nation.

(2) That we heartily commend all legitimate measures for the suppression and entire abolition of this great evil, and to this end would recommend to all our churches a continuance in well-doing, a more faithful presentation of temperance truths from the pulpit, more thorough instruction in Sabbath schools and young people's societies, a more general use of pledges, personal work, and all other available means by which the children may be trained for lives of sobriety, virtue, and usefulness.

(3) That in the Anti-Saloon League, now thoroughly organized and doing a grand work in some twenty-five of our states, we recognize a strong ally in the work of needed reform; we rejoice in the success already attained by these organizations, and bespeak for them the prayerful sympathy, aid, and co-operation, so far as practicable, of all our churches. 1901, p. 45.

That this Council is unalterably opposed to the liquor traffic, and that we pledge ourselves to do all in our power for the promotion of the cause of temperance and total abstinence. 1904, p. 550.

I. That in accordance with those profound convictions to which our churches have given continuous expression we again declare our sympathy with every wise effort for the utmost restriction and final suppression of the beverage liquor traffic.

II. That we strongly deprecate the present sale of special revenue stamps for the traffic in liquor, save for medical purposes, in any region where such traffic is prohibited, together with the permission for express or other transportation companies to deliver intoxicating liquors in such districts to other parties than those locally licensed, and we appeal for such national legislation as shall most speedily remedy these wrongs.

III. That we heartily commend the scientific temperance instruction of our public schools, and bespeak for its working the utmost sympathy and vigilance, and that we urge upon all our churches and Sunday Schools increased zeal for total abstinence from all alcoholic liquors and cigarettes. We protest against all participation, either direct or indirect, in any form of profit from the beverage liquor or cigarette traffic.

IV. That we hereby record our sorrow and profound loss in the death of Mrs. Mary H. Hunt, a member of our Council Temperance Committee, so justly distinguished as the founder and chief promoter of that scientific temperance instruction in our public schools which is providing one of the strongest aids to an intelligent and conscientious abstinence from the use of intoxicants and narcotics.

V. That we recognize with gratitude the effective work of the Anti-Saloon League in its three departments of agitation, legislation, and law enforcement, and earnestly commend its support as the most valuable agency for the prosecution of restrictive and suppressive work, by such non-partisan and non-sectarian methods as can in no way complicate our churches with political alliances.

VI. That in harmony with our previous attitude in reference to temperance, and in view of the rapid advance of temperance sentiment in our country, and the growing requirement for the use of all practical agencies for temperance reform, we recommend the establishment of a standing committee of five of this Council on temperance. We also advise that the request of the Inter-Church Temperance Council for our participation in their work be referred to such standing committee for further consideration. 1907, pp. 414, 415.

On report of the Committee on Temperance, the following was adopted:

Whereas, There is to be a vigorous legislative campaign of unusual interest for the purpose of securing federal legislation in the interest of the protection of dry territory against the system of federal tax now in vogue, whereby the will of the voters of the state are to a certain extent nullified by the federal law;

Therefore resolved, First, that the Temperance Committee of this Council be authorized to represent the action of the National Council at the United States Congress in co-operation with other agencies for the passage of the Miller-Curtis Interstate Liquor Bill.

Second, that we urge all Christian voters to support men for office who will represent the moral convictions of a Christian citizenship in making and enforcing just law.

Third, that we recommend a campaign of pledge signing among old and young, that the dominant public sentiment and practice may continue to be total abstinence.

Fourth, that we commend the action of Congress in its firm resistance to the reestablishment of the sale of intoxicating beverages in the "army canteen."

Fifth, that we approve the action of Congress in prohibiting the sale of liquor to Indians, and its vigorous enforcement of the law.

Sixth, that we recommend the dissemination of literature in the chief immigrant languages giving the results of scientific inquiry as to the effects of alcoholic beverages.

Seventh, that we heartily commend the zealous and varied work of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

Eighth, that we strongly commend the work and methods of the Anti-Saloon League in promoting a nation-wide campaign on non-partisan and interdenominational lines, with a platform of morals and action upon which all good citizens may unite; and that we strongly deprecate any effort to multiply agencies at a time when the greatest need is for that unity of co-operation which can alone avail against a foe so powerful and unscrupulous. 1910, pp. 301, 302.

The following resolutions were adopted on suggestion of the Committee on Temperance:

3. In furtherance of the spirit of interdenominational comity, we hereby direct our standing committee on temperance to co-operate with the other church temperance committees in the Federal Council of Churches for the formation of a National Temperance Commission and for the fostering of such educational work as may be agreed upon by the constituent committees of that commission.

4. We renew our historic declaration in favor of the "utmost restriction and earliest suppression of the beverage liquor traffic," and rejoicing in the progress which has been made in united organization and in anti-liquor public sentiment, we now declare our approval of the plan to initiate at once a definite campaign to secure an amendment to the National Constitution prohibiting forever the manufacture, sale, importation, exportation, and transportation of intoxicating beverages throughout the United States. In view of the necessity of the most pervasive and urgent educational movement to make pos-

sible and efficient such an amendment and the statutes for its execution, we urge the largest possible support of all temperance agencies and hearty co-operation in the following methods of temperance service as recommended by the Federal Council of Churches:

"1. The local churches of our order to be affectionately urged to utilize, to the fullest extent possible, the temperance lessons in the Sunday School and temperance literature for the young.

"2. The co-operation of pastors and people in securing the introduction into the day schools of all grades of such text-books as will make plain the effect of alcoholic intoxicants upon body and mind, the results of scientific investigations, and the relation of the traffic to pauperism, ignorance, and crime, and the wide dissemination of literature in all languages upon these subjects.

"3. The preaching from our pulpits of solemn warning against the use of intoxicants, the condemnation of the rental of property for saloon purposes, the signing of applications for license, the endorsing of bonds of liquor dealers, the voting in favor of saloons in the community, or otherwise abetting this most serious evil.

"4. The continuation and expansion of a nation-wide campaign of temperance pledge signing by young and old, and this Council would heartily commend the example of officers of our government who are total abstainers from the use of intoxicating liquors." 1913, pp. 295, 296.

On recommendation of the Temperance Committee the following was adopted:

1. *Whereas* the effects of alcohol are notoriously injurious to all the circles of human life, and

Whereas the exportation of New England rum to the West Coast of Africa carries with it a decivilizing influence and is inconsistent with Christian America, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Council of the Congregational Churches of America hereby registers its protest against this iniquitous traffic and herewith petitions our national government to take such action as will abolish it.

2. *And whereas* eight per cent of the geographic area of the United States is now anti-saloon territory and on January 1st, 1916, more than half of our population will be free from the legalized liquor traffic, therefore

Be it Resolved, that we request the Congress of the United States, in harmony with what is now a majority sentiment of the country, immediately to pass a statute prohibiting the beverage liquor traffic in the District of Columbia.

3. *And whereas,* since the adoption by our Kansas City Council in 1913 of a declaration in favor of National Constitutional Prohibition of the liquor traffic, ten states of the Union have enacted state-wide prohibition, and the Sheppard-Hobson Joint Prohibition Resolution received on December 22d, 1914, a majority of eight votes in our National House of Representatives; therefore

Be it Resolved, That we rejoice in the rapid growth of public sentiment and the harmonious unification of the various temperance organizations in favor of definite legislation for the early and nation-wide abolition of the beverage liquor traffic, and

Be it Further Resolved, That we again appeal to the coming Congress of the United States speedily to submit to the states, and we further request the various state legislations promptly to ratify such a constitutional amendment as was embodied in the last Congress in the provisions of the Sheppard-Hobson Joint Resolution for National Prohibition.

And be it Further Resolved, That the Secretary of this Council be directed to forward a copy of these resolutions to every member of both Houses of the coming Congress of the United States, and that our Temperance Commission be instructed to do everything possible to make our action effective. 1915, pp. 50, 51.

Tercentenaries

SCROOBY

That, *whereas* our American Congregationalism looks back to the organization of the first church at Scrooby, England, in 1606, and *whereas* Congregationalism was transplanted to America first to the region now occupied by Massachusetts churches, be it

Resolved, That the General Association of the Congregational Churches of Massachusetts memorialize the National Council, at its next meeting in October, 1904, to take suitable action to encourage and direct the Congregational churches of America to celebrate appropriately the Tercentenary of the beginning of American Congregationalism.

It was *voted,* That a committee of five be appointed to consider the memorial of the General Association of Massachusetts regarding the celebration in 1906 of the Tercentenary of Congregationalism in America. 1904, p. 532.

PLYMOUTH ROCK

Report of the Commission on Missions relative to recognizing the three hundredth anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers by the raising of a memorial fund. 1915, p. 263.

Report of the Executive Committee on the Plymouth Tercentenary. 1915, p. 239.

Proposal to recognize the Tercentenary of Plymouth Rock in connection with the meeting of the International Council in Boston in 1920. 1915, p. 369.

The following was adopted on recommendation of the Executive Committee:

11. That the Executive Committee be instructed to proceed with arrangements for a suitable celebration of the Tercentenary of the landing at Plymouth Rock. 1915, p. 30.

The following was adopted on recommendation of the Commission on Missions:

That the Commission on Missions be instructed to prepare a plan for commemorating the three hundredth anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims by means of some notable effort, in furtherance of our denominational missionary undertakings, to take such preliminary steps as may be needful and which do not commit the Council to major features of the plan to be proposed and to submit the whole matter at the 1917 meeting of the Council. 1915, p. 47.

Report of the Commission on Missions on the Tercentenary Program. 1917, pp. 146-150.

Report of the Executive Committee on the plans for the International Council Tercentenary features. 1917, pp. 38-40.

On recommendation of the Commission on Missions it was

Voted, That we urge our Congregational fellowship to give itself with unceasing labor and believing prayer to the endeavor to exalt during this Tercentenary period those fundamental principles upon which our fathers built and to give them new effect in the life of the church, the nation and the world.

Voted, That the churches be asked so to organize their effort during the next three years that they may give strong emphasis to the fields of Christian service included in the goals of the Tercentenary Program with a united endeavor to reach new levels of achievement in each of them.

Voted, That our Congregational fellowship address itself to the task of raising as a Pilgrim Memorial Fund the sum of $5,000,000.

Voted, That the securing of this Fund be entrusted to a Pilgrim Memorial Fund Commission of one hundred persons, the same to be chosen on recommendation of the Nominating Committee, the Committee being requested to name a group within the Commission of not more than nine persons as an Executive Committee of the same.

Voted, That to this Commission be given full discretion and authority as to methods of procedure and that our churches and membership be urged to co-operate with it to the utmost measure of their power.

Voted, That funds secured shall be held intact in the custody of the Corporation for the National Council as a perpetual endowment whose proceeds shall be used to provide annuities, disability and death benefits for Congregational Ministers under the control of the Board of Trustees of the Annuity Fund for Congregational ministers and their dependents. 1917, pp. 48, 49.

Blending of the Tercentenary program with that of the Congregational World Movement. 1919, p. 27.

Authority was given to the Executive Committee to appoint delegates to the Plymouth Tercentenary celebration in England. 1919, p. 39.

(For further reports regarding Tercentenary Fund see Pilgrim Memorial Fund.)

Theological Seminaries

Resolved, That in the judgment of this body it is desirable that those who have the immediate direction of our theological seminaries should hold a conference with a view of securing greater harmony and efficiency in training probationers for the sacred office; and that they be requested to pay particular attention to the subject of a ''special course'' of professional study, as recommended by the Council of 1865. 1871, p. 43.

The Council adjourned to participate in the exercises connected with laying the corner stone of a building for Oberlin Theological Seminary, at which exercises in the church addresses were made by Rev. James H. Fairchild, D. D., president of the college; Rev. Samuel Wolcott, D. D., of Ohio; Gen. Oliver O. Howard, of District of Columbia; Hon. James Monroe, of Ohio; Rev. Horatio Q. Butterfield, D. D., of New York, and the moderator. 1871, p. 39.

Report of committee and resolutions adopted:—

Resolved, That this Council recognize the theological seminaries at Bangor, Andover, Hartford, New Haven, Oberlin, Chicago, and Oakland as proper constituencies of this body, as defined in the constitution, and entitled to the confidence and sympathy and, according to their respective needs, to the benefactions of our churches.

Resolved, That we recognize the present claims of our theological seminaries to the beneficent sympathy of our churches; and, without prejudice to the claims of other institutions, that we earnestly trust that a further endowment of $100,000 each may, as soon as possible, be secured for the Oberlin, Chicago, and Pacific Seminaries.

Resolved, That our young and growing theological institutions at the South, in connection with Howard, Atlanta, and Straight Universities, are doing a work essential to develop and strengthen the growth of a pure and free Christianity in that portion of our country, and that we commend their growing wants to the attention and sympathy of our churches. 1871, p. 56.

Resolutions adopted: That this Council are impressed with the importance of the Theological Department of Oberlin College in relation to the broad region between the great West and the great East, and that we recommend to the Congregational churches of Ohio and of the nation, and to men of wealth and benevolence, a generous consideration of its claims upon their benefaction.

Resolved, That the raising of the sum of $50,000 under the auspices of the trustees and faculty for the erection of the theological building, the corner stone of which has been laid in our presence, would be a worthy tribute to the Christian objects we have assembled to promote; and that for such benefactions, and in commemoration of the founding in this place, on the principle of fellowship, of a permanent organization of our churches, a symbol of their unity, the new edifice may be appropriately named Memorial Hall. 1871, p. 56.

Resolved, That the New England church and the other Congregational churches, and the theological seminary in Chicago, which have suffered by the recent fire, are alike and together commended to all our brethren, and to the benevolent everywhere, for their sympathy and aid; and that when gifts are made the specific object to which they shall be applied—church or seminary—be designated by the donors. 1871, p. 55.

Minute of committee on the statements of theological seminaries. No resolutions. 1877, p. 50.

It was *resolved,* That the Council has heard with great interest the statements from the various theological seminaries representing the Congregationalists of our land, and records with gratitude its confidence in these institutions; that it notes, with thankfulness mingled with augmenting hope for their future, their growth in equipment and scope of instruction, and the goodly number of students in them preparing to enter the ministry of the Lord Jesus, and nobly responding from year to year to the urgent call for men for the home and foreign missionary fields. 1880, p. 28.

Resolved (1), That this Council would call attention to the provision made for the widest possible range of study, inviting young men of every variety and qualification to avail themselves of the advantages of our seminaries.

Resolved (2), That we bear especially emphatic testimony to the claims of the work of the ministry upon men of the highest ability, assuring them that they will there find an ample field for the employment of their powers. 1883, p. 34.

That the Provisional Committee be instructed to allow the theological seminaries, in the future, at least ten minutes each for the presentation of their work to the Council. 1895, p. 38.

The Provisional Committee be instructed to allow the theological seminaries, in the future, at least ten minutes each for the presentation of their work to the Council. 1895, p. 38.

The Provisional Committee were instructed to make the theological seminaries a topic on the next program, to be discussed, in place of the statements from the seminaries. 1898, p. 35.

Addresses on Theological Seminaries. 1901, pp. 195, 206; 1907, p. 45; 1910, p. 116.

Report regarding Congregational Theological Seminaries. 1907, pp. 45-51.

On recommendation of the Business Committee the following action was taken:

Whereas, One of the goals of the Tercentenary Commission is increased leadership for the church in its varied and world-wide ministry, and

Whereas, The reports indicate a decrease in the student body of the seminaries to which our churches look for leaders, and

Whereas, The National Council views with alarm an impending situation where the churches will be compelled to face an unprecedented spiritual opportunity with seriously depleted leadership unless an immediate and united effort be made to recruit the ranks of students preparing for the ministry;

Be it Resolved, That between the National Council and the theological seminaries enrolled in our Year Book there should be a more intimate relationship, a better understanding and a more fruitful co-operation.

Be it further Resolved, To this end (a) that each of these theological seminaries be urged to send a representative to the Council, (b) that each of them whose organization makes it possible, be requested to have on its Board of Trustees one member elected on the nomination of the National Council, (c) that at each biennial session of the National Council a portion of time be set apart for the presentation of the work and problems of these theological seminaries, and (d) that the Tercentenary Commission be asked to secure the co-operation of these theological seminaries in attaining that goal of the Tercentenary Campaign which concerns candidates for the ministry and missionary work. 1917, pp. 63, 64.

On recommendation of the Business Committee the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That this Council appoint a commission of five members to investigate the present condition and prospects of the schools responsible for the training of our ministers; more particularly the geographical relations of the schools; their financial condition; the per capita cost of their graduates for the past decade; their educational policies as regards both one another and other institutions furnishing recruits for pastoral and missionary service; and the relations of the schools to the national budgets proposed in the plan to raise $50,000,000. 1919, p. 47.

Together Campaign

The Inter-Missionary Societies' movement of 1909, felicitously termed the ''Together Campaign,'' is deserving of a chapter in our church history, both because of what it accomplished directly, and on account of what it may lead to.

When we met in National Council in Cleveland, in 1907, this was an enterprise not thought of. As an undertaking with a definite monetary object, it has gone far beyond the dollar mark. As a denominational endeavor, its results have been pronounced, and, I believe, permanent.

For the first time in many years, our missionary societies are now out of debt. This of itself is a notable thing. But the way in which they came to be delivered from their heavy, hindering, financial load is even more notable.

Competing methods were wholly discarded. There was no duplication of agencies, no waste either in labor or literature.

Our secretarial statesmen saw eye to eye. To them is due the credit for the conception of the campaign and for its successful execution. The labor involved was neither little nor limited. The entire group of our Missionary Societies entered into the canvass of the church membership upon an agreed and equitable basis. Thus united, they carried through a program marked by entire freedom from rivalry, and in a spirit of co-operation as fine as it was successful. Gratifying and helpful as were its financial results, it produced at least three important effects:

1. The ''Together Campaign'' gave an impressive exhibition of the essential unity of all the mission work which we have had, and now have, in the denomination.

2. It did much to promote and establish unity. Co-operation between our Missionary Societies is now made vastly easier; and, through the presentation of the Apportionment Plan in that campaign, it has come to pass that our churches are more than ever inclined to insist upon an all-round and balanced missionary effort.

3. As a part of these results, or rather as including them both, there came into existence a larger consciousness of the importance and of the claims of the missionary cause than we had for many years, if ever. This did not come through addresses to large audiences, for in most places the attendance was small; but it did come about because, through the wise and wide statement of the plans and purposes of the campaign, and through the final achievement of the minimum amount sought for, our people were led to think of missions in a more general way than had been the case in recent years.

These results were a triumph and a prophecy. There are lessons for us as a denomination in this wonderful union effort. Greater things for the kingdom must be conceived and undertaken. The business judgment of our thoughtful men approved the methods followed in this canvass. The way in which the campaign was conducted met the hearty commendation of our churches. The churches represented in this National Council, and the societies affected, cannot but contemplate their own and each other's future somewhat in the light of that which has been taught by this experience. 1910, pp. 20-22.

It is to be observed that so much of unification as was applied in ''The Together Campaign'' did not in the least disturb the corporate interests of any of the societies, nor did it affect the efficiency of the administration of any. It is to be remembered, also, that, during that entire brilliant and successful campaign, the emphasis was ever laid upon the oneness of the work of the societies; and the response was to this united appeal.

In the ''Together Campaign'' the bookkeeping was simple. There was no multiplicity of treasurers to confuse contributors.

All pledges went to one place. All funds were collected through one office. Men who were moved by the world-vision subscribed in one pledge, and the bookkeeper did the rest. It was simple; it was businesslike; and it won. 1910, p. 27.

Two years ago the initial steps were taken in what has come to be known as the "Together Campaign". The results of this campaign have been more valuable than its promoters dared hope or than the encouragement which accompanied its progress appeared to suggest. The sense of unity among the societies was greatly strengthened; new consciousness of the importance of missionary effort was created throughout large sections of the denomination; the Apportionment Plan was widely explained and advertised; and the sum of $330,000 in special gifts was secured sufficient to lift the debt resting upon the three larger societies. In this sum the Home Missionary Society shared to the extent of nearly $160,000. Its debt was extinguished and a small balance distributed among the constituent states under the percentage system, which is a fundamental feature of the organization. It is an occasion for gratitude that in addition to all the happy results of the campaign there was a tonic effect upon current receipts which has prevented any reaction and has maintained the income of the Home Missionary Society, as of the other societies, at something above the wonted level. 1910, pp. 167, 168.

The following resolution was adopted:

Whereas, The recent "Together Campaign" has removed the burdensome and crippling debts of the American Board, the Home Missionary Society, and the American Missionary Association, thus equipping them for new efficiency in their work, and in this movement the Church Building Society heartily cooperated, although it had no debt; and

Whereas, The need for aid has very greatly increased in recent years, so that the appeals of new and needy churches far exceed the ability of the Church Building Society to make prompt response to them, and there is a constant waiting list of scores of churches whose success and even life are threatened unless they can soon be helped; and

Whereas, The development of our power as an agency for the spread of the kingdom of Christ throughout the world depends upon the successful development of our churches;

Resolved, That an immediate effort should be made to rescue these distressed and imperiled churches by means of largely increased contributions through the Church Building Society; and to this end the Council urges that the full apportionment in contributions to the Church Building Society be given each year; and that by special individual gifts the Parsonage Loan Fund should be increased from $125,000 to $200,000, and the Church Loan Fund should be increased from $800,000 to $1,000,000; and it recommends that the society put forth every effort to secure these desired results before the meeting of the next Triennial Council. 1910, pp. 401, 402.

Trustees

(See also Charter, Corporation, Ministerial Relief, and Trustees.)

Act of incorporation adopted. 1886, p. 18.

On first meeting of trustees of the National Council, Hartford, Connecticut, February 4, 1887. 1886, p. 378.

TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES OF THE UNITED STATES:—

The committee to which were referred matters relating to ministerial relief, viz.: (1) the report of Judge Shipman and others relating to amendments to the charter of the trustees of the National Council; (2) the report of the committee on ministerial relief; and (3) the report of the trustees of this Council, submit the following report:—

The call for this work of ministerial relief throughout the country is increasingly imperative. No backward step should be taken. We would rather urge a forward movement looking to greater efficiency and wider usefulness.

The charter held by the trustees of the National Council is broad and comprehensive. It leaves the control of its affairs and of its corporate membership where it should be—in the National Council. The funds held for disabled ministers and their families already amount to about $130,000. Under its charter the corporation cannot hold property in excess of $300,000. In view of the possible, we might say probable, large increase of the fund by legacies and donations in the not distant future, we recommend that the trustees endeavor to secure an amendment to their charter increasing the limit of property which they are allowed to hold to not less than $1,000,000.

The trustees of this Council, as a corporation, have now no reason for existence except to secure, hold, and distribute relief funds.

At the present time the Provisional Committee, created for a temporary and different purpose, are the trustees *ex officio*, while the actual work of raising and distributing funds has been intrusted to a committee of ten, who work under instructions and with authority from this Council, but in conflict with the by-laws of the trustees, who are responsible for these funds.

If this Council shall select the best agents for this important work and make them trustees, placing all power and responsibility in their hands, then no special committee of ministerial relief will be needed.

As this corporation is ancillary to the National Council, it seems proper that its moderator, secretary, and treasurer should be trustees *ex officiis,* and that additional trustees should be chosen by the Council to act with them in this work.

Your committee therefore recommend (1) that fifteen trustees be chosen at each triennial session of the National Council, of whom its moderator, secretary, and treasurer shall be three, who shall together be the corporators under this charter for three years and until their successors are chosen; (2) that these trustees be instructed to devise and vigorously prosecute the best methods for increasing the permanent funds, the income of which shall be used for ministerial aid, by receiving legacies and special donations, while not neglecting the present needs of disabled ministers, and the widows and children of deceased ministers; (3) that such donations and legacies should be specially sought from individuals and from churches that are self-supporting, rather than from the weaker churches, and that the expenses of administration be reduced to the lowest possible terms consistent with the efficient prosecution of the work. 1901, p. 40.

Universalist Churches

Voted, The Council receives with interest the resolutions of the Northern California Conference expressing its hope that the way may soon open for a union of the Universalist Churches with our own. It is truly responsive to the spirit of the recent resolution adopted by the Universalist State Convention at Bangor, Maine. It directs its Commission on Inter-Church Relations to express to the General Convention its sincere desire to welcome to its fellowship all churches which can find freedom and satisfaction on the general basis of the Kansas City Statement of 1913, and it invites the General Convention to appoint a corresponding commission to consider with ours what is practicable. 1925, pp. 27, 28.

Report of Commission on Inter-church Relations on approach to the Universalists. 1927, pp. 81-84.

That the National Council approves as its own the joint statement of relationships worked out by the representatives of the Universalist churches and of our own. It believes that the breach of more than five generations should rapidly be forgotten and expresses the hope that the closest practicable union of our separate interests may soon take place. And instructs its Commission in conference with the Commission on Christian Comity and Unity of the General Convention of the Universalist Churches, to work out a plan to be reported to the next Council. 1927, p. 212.

No steps could be taken until after the meeting of the Universalist General Convention held at Hartford, Connecticut, October 20, 1927, at which the Joint Statement was ratified as follows:

"That we approve the Joint Statement issued by the Commissions representing the National Council of the Congregational Churches and the Universalist General Convention, not only as providing for closer fellowship between the Congregational and Universalist bodies, but as declaring the principles on which a wider unity of liberal Christians may be based. The adoption of this recommendation is to be interpreted in the light of the assertion in the Report of the Commission that nothing in the Joint Statement commits us to organic union."

On November 1st immediately following representatives of our Commission met in New York with those of the Commissions of the Christian and Universalist Churches. At that meeting a definite readiness to consider organic union with the Congregational Churches was expressed by the Commissions of the Christian Churches. Those of the Universalist Church, however, deemed themselves restrained from any discussion of merger by the vote of their Convention, but were eager to do all in their power to promote relations of the closest possible comity.

Further negotiations regarding the organic unity of the Universalist Churches with our own, however much desired, must await their initiative. From report of Commission on Interchurch Relations. 1929, p. 78.

Universities

(See also Colleges.)

Resolved, That this Council regards with favor the project of establishing foundations of a religious character in connection with our great state universities, whose purpose shall be to provide pastoral care, religious instruction, and helpful Christian influences to the students there assembled; and we heartily commend this enterprise to those of generous spirit, as in the highest degree worthy of their sympathy and their gifts. 1901, p. 27.

Washington, D. C.

That the trustees of the American Congregational Union be advised and requested to take into consideration the importance of a well-sustained Congregational church in the city of Washington; and, having ascertained what facilities there are for the establishment of such a church, and what aid will be necessary to institute the arrangement, according to their best judgment and discretion, to build or purchase a suitable edifice in the national capital in which a Congregational church may maintain the preaching of the gospel and the public worship of God. 1865, p. 492.

Whitman College

Recognizing the value of Christian education, as attested by the history of our colleges throughout the East and West; recognizing also the supreme importance of continuing this work on the lines already laid down, and of embracing every opportunity providentially opened to bring into existence and secure the endowment of colleges worthy to stand by the side of those which have already accomplished memorable service for the kingdom of God; and gratefully recognizing the gifts which have been flowing into these educational channels for so many years, we regard it as a special privilege to call attention to the princely gifts which in recent years have come to our colleges from D. K. Pearsons, and to the offers which he has now made to several institutions in which we are deeply interested;

Resolved, That we especially commend to all Christian people, and to the members of our churches in particular, the college at Walla Walla, Washington. This college, founded by that noble man of God, Cushing Eells, and named Whitman College in honor of his friend and co-worker in the home missionary field, Dr. Marcus Whitman, who, at the risk of his own life, saved three states to the Union by his memorable journey across the continent in the winter of 1842-43, appeals to the loyalty of all patriotic and Christian people, not only on account of its romantic past, but because of the splendid opportunity which is before it. In addition to the supreme importance of this college to the highest interests of Christianity in the Northwest, it is of special value as the memorial of an, as yet unhonored national hero. By the conditions of gift $150,000 must be raised prior to January 1, 1896, and of this sum Walla Walla has pledged $50,000. It remains for Christian benevolence to provide the $100,000 still lacking. Under these circumstances we feel that we are justified in commending this institution to the generous consideration of our churches, and, indeed, to all lovers of our country. 1895, p. 30.

Woman's Work

Whereas, The women of our churches, who after the revivals of forty years ago had in operation 317 missionary societies, auxiliary to the American Board, have resumed the same service in the setting up of Women's Boards of Missions, both at the East and the Interior, represented by fifty of their own sex engaged in special labors in behalf of women abroad; and

Whereas, For half a century, they have been engaged in generous efforts to supply the necessities of home missionary families through their benevolent societies, among which is the eminent New Hampshire Female Cent Society, that has raised an aggregate of $77,000; and

Whereas, Cultivated women, with great self-denial, have given themselves to personal labor in behalf of the freedmen; therefore,

Resolved, That this National Council gratefully recognizes this reawakening among these Christian women of the missionary spirit, which now finds expression, as the one mind of Christ, in these efforts for giving the blessings of the gospel to women in foreign lands; for carrying cheer and hope to the homes of the frontier missionaries, and for ministering to the Christian culture of the freed people of the South; and earnestly recommends the organization of similar missionary societies in all our churches, invoking the favor of God upon them and the objects of their beneficence. 1871, p. 53.

The following was adopted on report of the Executive Committee:

That all women be given the right to the floor when questions affecting the women's organizations are under discussion. 1925, p. 21.

Address on the Unified Type of Woman's Organization, by Mrs. Charles F. Chase. 1917, p. 403.

Woman Suffrage

On recommendation of the Business Committee the following resolution was adopted:

Whereas, In the affairs of the home, the community and the church, women have shown their adherence and their devotion to high ethical standards, and

Whereas, In the deliberations of our Congregational churches the voice of women has been heard with that of men,

Therefore, Be It Resolved, That we, the National Council of the Congregational Churches of America, reaffirm our belief in the democratic principles of our denomination and declare that the revaluation of the world's politics demands an equal participation of men and women in things temporal as well as in things spiritual. 1917, p. 42.

Women, Ordained

Report of Commission. 1921, pp. 37-41.

Report adopted, with the addition of the following: "This Council rejoices in the freedom of our churches in recognizing the prophetic gift in women as well as in men." 1921, p. 373.

World Court

(See also International Relations.)

The following as presented by the Committee on Resolutions was adopted:

Whereas, The question of the entrance of the United States into the Permanent Court of International Justice, otherwise known as the World Court, is to be considered by the United States Senate on December 17, 1925, and

Whereas, This question is believed to be of crucial importance because it specifically relates to the attitude of the United States toward the maintenance of world peace and justice by judicial determination rather than by force, and

Whereas, The World Court has been accepted by substantially all of the sovereign nations of the world as a permanent tribunal to which may be submitted all questions likely to lead to war, and

Whereas, Presidents Harding and Coolidge, ex-Secretary Charles E. Hughes and many other leading statesmen of the nation without regard to party, have urged that the United States enter the World Court with proper reservations, therefore

Be it Resolved, That the National Council of Congregational Churches assembled at Washington, D. C., in 1925, reaffirm the position taken by it in 1923 in regard to the World Court.

We rejoice at the statement made by the Honorary Moderator of this Council, Calvin Coolidge, President of the United States, that "as peace means fundamentally a reign of law, we propose to become a member of the Permanent Court of International Justice."

Be it further Resolved, That we make a determined effort, as ministers and laymen, in our several localities to arouse public interest in this question, to the end that the United States shall co-operate to the utmost with other nations in bringing about the substitution of judicial methods for war. 1925, p. 50.

THE PERMANENT COURT

That our government proceed forthwith to seek membership in the Permanent Court of International Justice. (Adopted by unanimous vote.)

Whereas the National Council of Congregational Churches has more than once expressed its deep conviction that the United States, under proper safeguards should enter the World Court, therefore be it

Resolved, That this Council respectfully petitions the Senate of the United States to adopt a plan, such as has been negotiated at Geneva under the guidance of the Honorable Elihu Root, so that the United States may become a member of the Permanent Court of International Justice, and be it further

Resolved, That the General Secretary of this Council respectfully transmit this resolution to the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate, to the President of the United States, and to the Department of State in Washington. 1929, pp. 223, 224.

Worship

A memorial from the General Congregational Association of Minnesota, relating to the enrichment of public worship, was received; and it was *voted,* That a committee be appointed to consider the matter of the improvement of public worship in our churches, to collect facts concerning changes already made in many churches in the order and enlargement of the service of worship, and to make suggestions for its further enrichment, and report at the next session of the Council. 1886, pp. 40, 49. Report on, p. 361.

Inasmuch as the movement for the improvement of worship in Congregational churches is yet in its beginning, and the common sentiment and practice of our churches in this matter are in process of change, and the conditions of the time do not allow any final answer at present to the questions involved; therefore,
Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to continue the work of the committee of 1886, and report at the next Council. 1889, pp. 36, 46. Report on, p. 297.

At a meeting of about fifty who were interested in the subject of the enrichment of the public worship of our Congregational churches, it was moved and carried that a Provisional Committee be appointed to consider this matter further, and to request the Business Committee of the National Council for a place for this subject at our next National Council, and also for the appointment of a committee on the subject. 1901, p. 32.

Report of committee adopted, which included a Common Order. 1904, p. 491.

Petition for appointment of a committee to draft an order of worship, "catholic in spirit, evangelical in doctrine and truly expressive of our heritage in the reformed faith and our larger communion with ancient saints and the Church throughout the world."

While safeguarding the free forms of prayer by the leader in worship according to our prevailing customs, we especially desire that the order shall be a guide to a service more truly representative of the genius of Congregationalism than present practices, by affording larger opportunity for all members of the congregation to engage in expressive acts of worship.

This we ask not only with a view to city churches, where strangers abound, but also in the interests of the thousands of small churches and mission stations whose need of aid in orderly and expressive worship makes urgent appeal for an immediate ministry of such helpfulness in the conduct of worship as the Council has already given for the conduct of business. 1907, pp. 422, 423.

The petition was granted and the committee appointed.

Report of the committee to prepare an order of worship. 1910, pp. 303-310.

Shorter and fuller forms of order of worship, also collects and prayers for occasional use. 1910, pp. 311-325.

Resolved, That this Council receives with approval the order of worship presented by its committee and recommends it to the churches; and recommends that it be printed in convenient form for such churches as may adopt it.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to prepare additional forms for the Communion Service, Baptismal Service, and other services common in our churches, for the assistance of pastors in making such services impressive and helpful; this committee to present the result of its work to the next National Council. 1910, pp. 373, 374.

Report of the Committee on Order of Worship, including the following additional services.

An order for a vesper service.
An order for an evening service.
An order for the laying of a corner stone of a church building.
An order for the dedication of a church building.
An order for the ordination (or installation) of a minister.
An order for the reception of members.

An order for the baptism or consecration of children.

An order for the communion service.

An order for the marriage service.

An order for the funeral service. 1913, pp. 297-331.

It was *voted,* That the Council receives with approval the report of the Committee on Order and Worship and recommits the report to the Commission on the Order of Worship to complete the work, with authority to publish, when completed, for the use of ministers and churches wishing to use it. 1913, p. 404.

On recommendation of the Business Committee it was

Voted, That the Commission on Public Worship, whose work is nearly completed, be continued for the purpose of finishing the revision and improvement of the Orders of Worship and that the Commission be authorized to print the result for such use by our pastors and churches as they may wish, and that when this work is completed the Commission be relieved from further duty and discharged. 1917, pp. 40, 41.

See also reports of the Commission on Evangelism and Devotional Life.

Year-Book

(See also Finance and Publishing Committee.)

Resolved, That an annual compilation of the statistics of our churches throughout the country, and especially an accurate and complete list of ministers in fellowship, should be published under the sanction of this Council. 1877, p. 40.

That a recommendation in it (the secretary's report) relating to uniform statistics be referred to a committee.

This recommendation was that a committee be appointed, perhaps the several statistical secretaries, to consider and report during the session a uniform plan which the Council might recommend to the states for adoption. 1877, pp. 15, 82.

Report of committee on secretary's report:—

1. It is desirable that there should be a uniformity as to the *date* on which statistics are to be collected. This appears at present to be impracticable. But it would be a decided convenience for the annual general compilation of statistics, and a necessity for prompt publication, if no state should make its statistical year close later than June 30; and it is recommended that each state using a later date be respectfully requested to make such a desirable change. 1877, p. 35.

Inasmuch as the Council in 1871 unanimously declared that all our ministers ought to be in orderly connection with some ministerial or ecclesiastical organization which can certify to their regular standing, it is recommended that in each state publication the name of any other supplying a church have a star affixed with explanation, and that such names be not put upon the alphabetical roll of ministers, or if inserted to be starred. 1877, p. 35.

Resolved (6), That the Council heartily accepts the policy of a judicious insertion of advertisements in the Year-Book. 1883, p. 25. Report of, p. 157.

Resolved, That said committee be also authorized and directed to publish a Year-Book for the years 1881, 1882, and 1883, for distribution among the churches and ministers represented in the Council.

Resolved, That the Provisional Committee be, and hereby are, directed to furnish every church and minister upon the rolls of the denomination a copy of the Minutes and of each Year-Book ordered by this Council, free of charge and postage paid; and that in order to cover the cost of the same, and also the other expenses of the Council, they be, and are hereby, authorized to ask through the state bodies contributions of the churches of not exceeding one and one-half cents per member for the first year, and of one-half that sum for each of the other two years. 1880, p. 27. Report on, p. 194.

Resolved (2), That we request all the states to make their statistical year the same as the calendar year.

Resolved (3), That the publication of the Year-Book for 1888, and subsequent years, be delayed until the statistics, collected as rapidly as possible after January 1, can be tabulated and included; and that the secretary be authorized to procure such additional clerical help as may be necessary for the prompt issue of the Year-Book. 1886, p. 46.

Resolved, That the secretary be directed to insert in each Year-Book the list of ministers not in pastoral charge, arranged by states, with the specific employment and residence of each person, as in former years. 1886, p. 43.

Voted, That the Publishing Committee be directed to act in connection with the secretary in the publication of the Year-Book, so as to secure the highest possible perfection in that invaluable manual. 1886, p. 47.

Resolved (1), That the statistical year of our Year-Book be the civil year.

Resolved (3), That for and after the year 1888 the Year-Book contain the charities of the churches in detail, the charitable legacies paid during the year, and the statistics of the Sunday Schools.

Resolved (4), That the church clerks be asked to forward their statistics to the proper secretary as early as the fifteenth day of January of each year.

Resolved (5), That we recommend that in the state Minutes the churches be arranged alphabetically, on the plan of the Year-Book.

Resolved (6), That absent church members be considered such as have removed their residence beyond the natural limits of the parish in which the church is located, from which the following persons should be excepted: such as are away at school or college, such as are on extended journeys, and such as are otherwise temporarily absent.

Resolved (7), That in the enrollment of families all that recognize a minister as their pastor, or who naturally look to him in preference to any one else for ministerial services, should be included. 1886, p. 50.

See also *Minister's Standing.*

1. That we recommend that, to expedite the gathering of statistics, hereafter the reports of the churches be made, not to the scribes or clerks of the local associations or conferences, but directly to the state secretaries.

2. That hereafter, in the Year-Book, honorary titles be omitted, except ''Rev.'' before the names of ministers.

3. That a column be added to our statistics for Young People's Societies of Christian Endeavor and similar societies connected with our churches.

4. That in the statistical blanks the question in regard to removals by discipline be amended so as to read, How many were removed otherwise—as by discipline and revision of roll?

5. That home expenditures should not include what a church received as missionary aid.

6. That in the tables of the Year-Book the secretary follow the local designations of churches used by state secretaries in their official reports to him.

7. That the secretary omit the list of ''ministers without pastoral charge.''

8. That we recommend that all churches reported as without members, or known by the state secretaries to be without members, and churches having a very few members, but adjudged without life, be dropped from the roll, except where legal rights are involved.

9. That the secretary be authorized to furnish the state secretaries with bound copies of the Year-Book. 1889, p. 25.

That the following resolution, namely: "*Resolved,* That this Council recommend the enrollment in our Year-Book of all churches and stations sustained in whole or in part by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions," be referred to the Publishing Committee of this Council, and that they be requested to confer with the Prudential Committee of said Board, the Council agreeing to the determination of those two committees.

It was *voted,* That if questions of variance arise as to what churches shall be enrolled in the Year-Book, and by what methods their statistics shall be gathered for this purpose, such questions may be decided by the Publishing Committee. 1892, p. 42.

See also Mission Sunday Schools.

1. That, inasmuch as there is a reasonable request from the societies of Endeavor and other auxiliary organizations for the inclusion of additional items to parallel those now reported from the Sunday Schools, and as this cannot be done without increasing the bulk of the Year-Book, therefore the questions calling for the additions by profession from the Sunday School and the charities of the school be omitted. '

2. That, as the late appearance of the Year-Book is a fact to be deplored by all interested in it, and by none more than by the secretaries themselves, and as some states have already adopted a time limit, after which no returns will be received, therefore, in the hope of securing the Year-Book at an earlier date, we strongly urge the churches to send in their returns not later than February 1 of each year.

3. That, if in any case the occurrence of the annual meeting of the church or the society be the occasion of delay, we suggest that the date of such meeting be brought forward to the beginning of the year.

4. That councils for the organization of churches and the ordination, installation, or dismission of ministers are requested to report their action immediately to the secretary of the state in which they have been held.

5. That churches which are not connected with any association, conference, or other local body be starred in the tables. 1895, p. 14.

That the distribution of the Year-Book be made subject to the approval of the Publishing Committee. 1895, p. 39.

(1) That in its judgment the names of Sunday School superintendents should not be dropped from the Year-Book, but a place be found for them in a list arranged alphabetically by states at the end of the returns.

(2) That inasmuch as the secretary of the Council has a plan for presenting the benevolence of the churches which covers the request contained in the memorial, the committee needs only to suggest that the working out of that plan in its details be left to him.

(3) That the proposal to secure reports from the treasurers of our various societies being experimental in its character, the future alone can determine its value, and that the registrars of the associations of the different states be therefore advised to employ such measures in obtaining their reports as in their judgment may seem wise and necessary. 1901, p. 18. Report on, p. 33.

Resolved, We advise that the designation in the Year-Book be as follows, viz: For those inducted into office by Installing Council "P. I.," and for those using Council of Recognition, "P. R."; that other designations remain unchanged.

First. That when reports are given by two or more general bodies recognized by the Council in the same state, the churches be published in separate schedules and designated accordingly, except in those cases where churches belong to another state, as is already done with Pennsylvania under the New Jersey Association, and Georgia under the Florida Association.

Second. That, if a proper schedule can be prepared, reports of foreign mission churches be published at the end of the state schedules. In this we are suggesting simply the desire of certain of our missionaries who have requested that such tables be published, under the approval of the secretaries of the American Board. This would call for about two pages, and the expense would be trifling.

Third. In view of the fact, that, according to custom, the next volume will include the fifth year statistics, your committee would recommend that these statistics be embodied in the state schedules, instead of being printed as heretofore at the end of the state reports, and published annually. This plan, which has been heartily indorsed by all the state secretaries, to whom it has been referred in full detail, will not require a larger book, and will also meet a demand for these statistics which continues throughout several consecutive years. The plan has been considered by many pastors with favor.

Fourth. The state secretaries in conference assembled in their triennial meeting would recommend to the National Council that the column designated "Families" be transferred to the upper schedule page in the Year-Book; that the column "Average Attendance" be omitted; that Legacies be reported at the end of each state schedule and the column so designated be omitted; that the names of ministers in Ministers' List be designated after the manner of vocation as Evangelist, Secretary, Editor, etc. 1904, p. 536. Report on, p. 382.

Request of Committee on Apportionment for a column for the Woman's Board as well as each of the seven Societies. 1910, p. 331.

Communication of Secretaries of the national societies regarding the schedule for benevolences in the Year Book referred to the Committee of Eleven. 1910, p. 383.

Request for a column for the Congregational Brotherhood. 1910, p. 333.

It was *voted,* That the memorials of the Massachusetts General Conference and the National Brotherhood asking for the collection of Brotherhood statistics and the including of a column of such Brotherhood statistics in the Year-Book be approved by the National Council and referred to the Provisional Committee for execution. 1910, p. 394.

It was *voted,* That the Provisional Committee be authorized to make such an adjustment of the statistics of the Year-Book as may be deemed best to them. 1910,. p. 407.

Adopted on recommendation of the Executive Committee:

That in recognition of the increased number of women engaged as parish workers, the names and locations of all salaried parish workers in our churches be inserted in a special page of the Year-Book. 1915, p. 46.

Ministers who have lost their ministerial standing by action of the associations shall not appear in the Year Book. 1915, p. 39.

Report of the Executive Committee on Changes. 1915, pp. 227, 228.

Report of the Executive Committee regarding the benevolence columns in the Year Book. 1915, pp. 228-230.

Accounts of the national treasurers for the Year-Book to close on January 10. 1917, p. 62.

Report of the Executive Committee regarding the Year-Book. 1917, pp. 96, 97.

From the report of the Executive Committee.

The Year Book has been published as usual, serious delay however, being due to the printer's strike. The cost of publication has been somewhat more than $14,000, an increase of more than double the cost of five years ago, mainly arising from higher rates of labor. The established policy of free distribution to all ministers and to church clerks upon request has been continued. The column reporting "Invested Funds" is being used temporarily for the Pilgrim Fund and another adjustment makes room for the Congregational World Movement. 1921, p. 18.

It was *voted* "That for the next biennium the statistical tables be printed as in previous years except for such changes as the merger may demand." Also "that the necrology statement be condensed and simplified so as to give only date of birth and death and denominational appointments and service." 1925, p. 43.

For many years a high standard has been maintained in the publication of statistics of the denomination through the annual Year-Book. The expenditure of time and money is so large that the Committee feels the urgency of minimizing this outlay at every point which will not seriously reduce the value of the book.

The merger processes which are resulting in but three columns of apportionment figures will reduce the record of gifts under the apportionment from eleven columns to four. This naturally raises the question as to whether there are other simplifications that might be introduced resulting in substantial savings of time and expense. The Executive Committee has appointed a special committee on this subject in the hope that the book may even be improved in its value by certain simplifications.

The instruction of the last meeting of the National Council has been carried out, limiting the biographical notices under "Necrology" to a few essential items. 1927, p. 16.

A new schedule for the Year-Book has been adopted, reducing the tabulation from a two-page to a one-page system. The result is before the Council in the book for 1927, much reduced in size, and it is hoped, more convenient for purposes of reference. Incidentally there is a saving of over three thousand dollars in expense. 1929, p. 12.

Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor

That this Council looks with favor upon the work accomplished by the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor; recognizes the hand of Providence in bringing forward this method of Christian nurture; and commends it to the earnest consideration of the pastors and churches. 1886, p. 19.

Resolved, That the Council recommends that the Sunday preceding the day of prayer for colleges be set apart as Christian

Endeavor Day, for the preaching of sermons and for such other services as shall tend to deepen the conviction of the importance of the religious element in education and the vital relations of the churches to educational work. 1895, p. 24.

The secretary was instructed to send the following to the International Convention of Young People's Societies of Christian Endeavor at Nashville, Tennessee: ''The Tenth National Council of Congregational Churches greets you. Mizpah.'' 1898, p. 20.

Whereas, Twenty years ago the first Society of Christian Endeavor was organized in the Williston Congregational Church of this city; and

Whereas, The society has spread into more than forty of our sister denominations, and into every country on the globe; and

Whereas, The Christian Endeavorers of America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia have this year placed a bronze tablet upon the church building as an expression of their gratitude to God for the movement started there; and

Whereas, The original society is still doing its work with undiminished vigor and effectiveness; therefore,

Resolved, That we, members of the National Congregational Council, express our grateful appreciation of the blessing of God that has rested upon the Christian Endeavor movement; that we rejoice in the spirit of interdenominational and international fellowship that has promoted; that we congratulate the original society on its past record and present success; that we bear grateful testimony to the loyalty and fidelity of our young people, to their growth in grace and ability to serve, to their missionary zeal and practical efforts to advance the kingdom of God upon the earth; and that we urge upon all our ministers and churches a larger use of this instrumentality for the training of our young people in worship and work. 1901, p. 24.

This that Council desires to express its great satisfaction at the continued and world-wide spread of the Society of Christian Endeavor, which was organized in a Congregational church, and has now found a place in more than eighty denominations and in practically every country in the world.

We rejoice in the society's steadfast loyalty to the church of which it is a part, and in its spirit of unity that has united its members in the wider interdenominational fellowship of service.

We heartily commend the wise and far-reaching plans for training its members to greater efficiency in the service of Christ through his church, and urge all our pastors to give hearty and sympathetic leadership along these lines.

We desire espcially to express our approval of the plans recently formed to challenge the young people with the claims of the ministry and missionary service at an age while there is yet time for them to make adequate preparation for these lines of work which are calling so insistently for recruits.

And it was *voted,* That the development and strengthening of the Societies of Christian Endeavor be referred to the Commission on Religious and Moral Education. 1913, p. 403.

The following resolutions on young people's work, resulting from the Nebraska Conference resolution, were presented by Rev. Ernest Bourner Allen, as follows, and adopted:

1. WE BELIEVE that Congregationalists are ready for a new and positive forward movement in work for and by their young people, who constitute the greatest hope for working out our denominational duty and destiny.

2. WE APPEAL to the National Council to give organized young people's work their study, supervision, encouragement and guidance, with a view to co-ordinating the entire educational and training program among young people in our churches.

3. WE COMMEND the Christian Endeavor Society, a noble child of Congregationalism, as an available, fruitful and adaptable organization through which the interests of our young people, of the denomination and of Christ's kingdom can be efficiently conserved.

4. WE CALL for such a co-ordination of all of the young people's organizations and work in our denomination as shall enable us to present a solid front in meeting our problems.

5. WE ASK that the task of leading our Congregational young people into a new era of aggressive activity be committed to such agency of the Council as it may order, so that the forward movement may begin at once. We hope for the early appointment of a Secretary who shall devote all his time to the work of the young people's organizations and request that the young people be given an opportunity to finance this Secretaryship. 1917, pp. 55, 56.

Voted, That the greetings of the Council be sent to Rev. Francis E. Clark, D. D., upon completion of forty years of service as founder and leader of the Christian Endeavor movement, and also to the thousands of young people meeting in New York at the International Convention of Christian Endeavorers, pledging the strength of the Congregational Churches toward the future growth and usefulness of this movement. 1921, p. 390.

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